HISTORY
OF THE
NEW ZEALAND OPTOMETRICAL
ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

1930 — 1980

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NZOA

F. O. DAVIS

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PREFACE

1930 saw the birth of the New Zealand Institute of Opticians. This year, 1980 sees the Golden Jubilee of what is now the New Zealand Optometrical Association.

With this book the development of the Association is traced and recorded.

We may read of vicissitudes which have faced our professional life and how they have been overcome, we may read of successes which have in some cases taken years to achieve, but more importantly we may read of those optometrists who have contributed in numerous ways in creating a mature and respected professional body which is our proud heritage today.

The author did not live to see the completion of this history. On 5 December 1979 Frank Davis passed away.

Nobody except Frank and his devoted wife Cath, who completed the project, will be aware of the time and effort that has been put into recording, collating, preparing and arranging the publication of this history.

Let this book serve as a memorial to the author.

To the optometrists who are now privileged to be members of the N.Z.O.A., be grateful to those who have gone before, and to Frank Davis, who has recorded our history for posterity.

J. D. Adam,
President 1980.

FOREWORD

Jubilees are landmarks both to record achievement and take stock of progress. In New Zealand recent decades have seen a deservedly growing recognition of the various health professions formerly termed paramedical. Optometry is a fine example with its increasing professionalism and progressive academic standards.

Frank Davis was a man who strove with others to bring this about. This work will be a permanent memorial to him and his industry as well as an historical record of the Association. Frank Davis was a true professional, competent in practice,courteous in address, and dedicated to his work. It is because this Association contains many men and women of his ilk that this record of progress has been possible.

I knew Frank Davis in Invercargill and later through my Chairmanship of the Opticians Board developed an abiding regard for optometry in New Zealand. Because of this, I am delighted to write this foreword. I believe this record is important as a tribute to past achievement and a basis for certain progress in the future. May this Association ever be mindful of Coleridge's warning that, without deliberate effort, "the light which experience gives us is a lantern on the stern which shines only on the waves behind us".

H. J. H. Hiddlestone
MD, FRCPE, FRACP, MCCM
Director-General of Health,
WELLINGTON.

CHAPTER 1

THE FORMATION

Let us now praise famous men -
Men of little showing -
For their worth continueth -
For their work continueth,
Broad and deep continueth,
Greater than their knowing.
(Stalky and Co.)

The New Zealand Optometrical Association Incorporated, now celebrating fifty years of evolution and development, covers a major and substantial part of New Zealand's history but, over a goodly number of years, activities of consequence preceded the founding of the present Association. Some of these activities and plannings, nay even visionary dreams, delve back to the turn of the century although the tempo, especially in the education and legislative spheres, increased markedly in the 1920s.

To present a panoramic picture of the present Association's and optometry's evolution in this developing Colony and Dominion, it is proposed to survey briefly some of the earlier period in the next chapter.

This story though, and the period leading up to the foundation of the present Association in February 1930, requires some appreciation of the active personalities of the period, the years when various ideas were in the melting pot, the difficulties of communication, all the divergencies and convergencies and the fruitful final merging of one era into another. Some of the changes were legislative, some administrative and most important of all was the gradual moulding of the mental attitudes of all those diverse people into new channels. Undoubtedly most men involved in some way or another in eyesight correction in those early times were deeply desirous of legal recognition, regulation and education, and the founding of the present Association marked the beginning of this optometric fulfilment. The present Jubilee marks half a century of real change and progress.

In 1928 on 6 October the two Houses of Parliament passed into law the "Opticians Act 1928", comprising 22 Clauses and this Act carefully described an optician as a person who might employ any methods for the estimation of errors of refraction of the human eye and to prescribe or adapt lenses to correct such errors (Clause 2). In Clause 19 opticians were forbidden to use any drugs for the purpose of paralysing the accommodation of the eye or otherwise facilitating the measurement of the powers of vision or treating any disease of the eye by the use of drugs. The penalty on conviction relating to Clause 19 was twenty pounds. This long desired legislation introduced and gave legal force to the use of the word "optician" throughout—indeed this concession was one of the compromises necessary to carry this legislation and thus the word "optometrist" which had been in widespread usage became redundant and illegal. To illustrate the significance of this change in terminology it should be noted that from 1922 "The Institute of Optometrists of New Zealand, Inc.," had existed with a substantial voluntary membership, had an examination system of no mean scope and also held a regular Annual Conference. It therefore became apparent in the late nineteen twenties that a change in constitution of the Institute of Optometrists would be essential to comply with and actively complement the Opticians Act. The easiest method of accomplishing this was to liquidate the existing Institute of Optometrists and to form a new body to be called "The Institute of Opticians of New Zealand Inc." to operate from 1 January 1930. This general procedure did apply and the first recorded subscription was that of Mr S. F. McLean of Wellington on 10 January 1930; the amount being one guinea plus sixpence exchange.

Prior to the above, an independent informal meeting of practising opticians was held on 20 February 1929 at which a resolution was passed that those present, if registered opticians under the Act, would form on 1 January 1930 a body to be known as the "Institute of Opticians of New Zealand", and that it would in due course apply for incorporation. To facilitate this formation an agreement in 1929 was drawn up in which the following opticians stated their willingness to join the new Institute when it was formed. For record purposes they were Messrs G. C. Abbott, R. Brooke-Taylor, H. H. Coote, H. S. Gilberd, T. A. Garrett, H. W. Littlejohn, S. F. McLean, E. A. Sargent, H. Spear, J. M. Savidge, W. T. Wilson and T. G. Young (all of Wellington), F. J. Glackin, J. H. Kane, W. W. McKinney, A. H. Reid, A. M. Rudge and N. Stouppe (all of Christchurch), A. H. Fairmaid, G. K. Neill, H. Neill and W. Sturmer (all of Dunedin), T. D. Peacock (Auckland), H. M. Bennett (Napier), H. Grocott (Hamilton), D. A. C. Lilburne (Wanganui), E. A. Shattky and H. J. Webber (Hastings), L. Styles (Napier), R. A. Noedl (Palmerston North), G. S. Carmichael (Timaru), W. Baker (Gore), W. Kinder and A. B. Yeoman (Oamaru)—a total of 34.

Also during this year of preparation, new Rules and Code of Ethics were prepared and on Wednesday 4 December 1929 a meeting of available registered opticians was held at the rooms of Messrs Morrison and Gilberd, Willis Street, Wellington—forever the mother house of New Zealand optometry—when it was resolved that the inaugural meeting of the new Institute should be called for 27, 28 and 29 February 1930 in Dunedin. This was of course at variance with the initial conception of inauguration on 1 January, which date, viewed in retrospect, would have posed many difficulties. It may be noted with interest that resulting from the meeting dates being changed, thirty seven subscriptions were paid in advance of the founding of what has now become the New Zealand Optometrical Association. In reality there were no administrative difficulties as the same secretary carried on duties from the Optometrist's Institute to the new Optician's Institute, namely Mr J. P. Stouppe.

These meeting dates were coincidental with the 9th Conference of the Institute of Optometrists of New Zealand Inc., being held at the Motor Club Rooms, Moray Place, Dunedin with an attendance of 26 persons and 29 apologies. Mr E. A. Sargent was in the chair and on the motion of Mr G. K. Neill and Mr W. Sturmer the Report and Balance Sheet for the 9th Conference were adopted. Mr W. White moved and Mr T. Peacock seconded that the liquidators' actions be approved and this motion was carried. This motion effectively finalised the Institute of Optometrists Inc., and it was subsequently generally agreed that the cash balance be transferred to the embryonic Institute of Opticians.

The new adventure was about to commence. All the opticians present, now without any organised association, regrouped themselves under the chairmanship of Mr E. A. Sargent. Those present were Messrs T. D. Peacock, G. E. Read Jnr, B. M. Irvine (Auckland), R. A. Noedl (Palmerston North), T. L. Cocks, R. Brooke-Taylor, H. S. Gilberd, H. Spear and T. G. Young (Wellington), R. A. Batstone, B. Falck, A. H. Reid, N. Wright and W. J. Watson (Christchurch), W. Kinder and A. B. Yeoman (Oamaru), W. S. Young (Timaru), A. H. Fairmaid, F. G. Hayes-Towns, H. Boock, G. K. Neill, H. Neill and W. Sturmer (Dunedin), W. White (Alexandra), J. D. Gilmore (Invercargill). Total 26.

Apologies for absence, coupled with best wishes, were received from Messrs Abbott, Barry, Bennett, Baker, Browne, Curtis, Carmichael, Henderson, Tingey, Dick, Freeman, Gerrand, Gregory, Lilburne, Deverell, Munro, Murray, Presswood, J. A. Peacock, McLean, McKinney, Derbridge, G. F. Reid Snr, Savidge, Suckling, N. Stouppe, Taaffe, Wood and Woolley. These have been laboriously listed to form an historical record; and from these two catalogues of names have come so many who gave the new Institute the idealism and impetus for the formative years ahead. Time has taken its toll and only perhaps three of these opticians are still living.

During the course of this meeting the name of the Institute was confirmed:- "The Institute of Opticians of New Zealand (Incorporated)"—and the Rules drawn up by the previously organised steering committee were adopted. Thus the procedural requirements for the new professional body were accomplished and the organisation proved itself to have been soundly based, well motivated and enduring, despite a further name change much later to bring into being what is now known as the New Zealand Optometrical Association. The name has changed, a long fifty years of steady progression has passed by, but the Institute or Association still thrives on the same sound objectives as were outlined by Mr E. Sargent in the learned City of Dunedin in 1930.

1. To elevate the standard of optometry.
2. To encourage high ethical professional service.
3. To foster the growth and diffusion of optical knowledge.
4. To promote friendly intercourse among opticians.
5. To protect and further the interest of members.

Very wisely were these objectives outlined and with much wisdom did this inaugural meeting adopt them. It will become apparent as this narrative proceeds that the development of optometry as practised today proceeded from within the ambit of these five fine ideals.

The Office Bearers elected until the next Conference were:

President:	Mr E. A. Sargent
Vice-President:	Mr R. Brooke-Taylor
Treasurer:	Mr H. H. Coote
Executive:	Messrs H. S. Gilberd, H. Spear, T. G. Young, G. E. Read Jnr, F. G. Hayes-Towns, W. J. Watson, A. H. Fairmaid
Secretary:	Mr J. P. Stouppe

The representation was widely based from Auckland to Dunedin with a strong central thrust situated in Wellington. This city became the true administrative and decision making centre over the years and in this election of officers the Institute initiated a situation which has prevailed over the whole historical period whereby much reliance by the general membership was placed on the toil and wisdom of the Wellington members. Personnel certainly changed as the years rolled by but the quality and dedication remained. This fact will be illustrated many times as the story unfolds. Probably Mr J. P. Stouppe should receive a special note at this stage in so far that, having succeeded Mr W. E. Suckling as secretary of the Institute of Optometrists from 1 January 1929 and with his engaging personality, he rapidly acquired rapport and a wide knowledge of the diverse personalities within the optical scenario. His continuation as secretary of the new Institute of Opticians facilitated its smooth foundation and he continued as secretary almost continuously until 1936. A further note on Mr Stouppe will be found later.

The new Institute also dealt with matters of a wide ranging nature. There was present an atmosphere demanding activity and action. For example education was, as always, a foremost topic. The Suckling Correspondence Course had been functioning over several years to cover much of the theory involved, aided by the text books of Lionel Laurance and the ingenuities of Max Coque; and fortunately optometry was favoured by the arrival in this country of Mr Frank G. Hayes-

Towns from London in 1928. Inspired by his enthusiasm and new concepts, a committee was formed to make some contribution, by diligent application, to research and despite poor communications, to the uplift of the prevailing practice and application of applied optics. His was the spark also that set alight the "Wellington Clinic" to fill the needs of some tuition in practical subjective and objective applied optics.

The conduct of examinations passed in this year (1930) to the Opticians Board, but the Institute was desirous of encouraging tuition, both theoretical and practical, wherever possible. It was realised that the scattered locations of students made systematic instruction difficult although almost immediately the imagination of Mr Hayes-Towns (who was now located in Wellington) made possible some real progress in the clinical sphere. There commenced the six weeks of intensive training in subjective and objective optics that flourished into a high calibre course only to be interrupted by the war. Demonstrations and training on live patients, including the field of pathology, were an intensive nightly feature and in the years of hardship a small payment brought patients in even from Lower Hutt. Clinics often ran to a late hour and steadily there was compiled a wide ranging list of ametropic and pathological patients available for each succeeding year.

This Conference of 1930, the foundation of our continuing and ongoing organisation, rightly had its times of relief from debate, suggestion and decision. A style of relaxation was established and with modifications has been continued since as the following quotation will show. "On the concluding afternoon after the official photograph was taken, members, wives and friends were motored around the beautiful hills for which the City of Dunedin is famous. Climbing the winding road, the vistas of the city and harbour were much admired as was the soft greenery of the native bush. Favoured with an especially fine day, members obtained a glorious view from the hill-top, the coastline stretching away to the north and the harbour with its beautiful bays and beaches at their feet. Descending from the hill crests past Port Chalmers a halt was made at St Leonards for a dainty afternoon tea. After strolling around the attractive grounds of the Stevenson family home the short return journey was made. In the evening the customary social was held in the Somerset Lounge, Moray Place. The principal toast of the evening—"The Institute, Past and Present"—(a title never again so appropriate) was handled by Mr D. J. Gilmore of Invercargill in which he gave some review of past years and successes and a glimpse into the years of achievement that could lie ahead." Perhaps, the toast should have been "The Institutes, Past and Present" or even "Past Optometrists and Present Opticians".

Some accounts still exist of the first year (1930) and in all 83 opticians became members with their subscription fixed at one guinea. An entrance fee of two guineas was paid by some commencing in the mid-year period but these fees were apparently all repaid, presumably due to an Executive reversal of the entrance liability. This membership represented a full geographical coverage of the country from Whangarei to Invercargill and it might reasonably be assumed that members covered 80% to 90% of the general optical business. Some items of expenditure may be worth recording e.g. typewriter ribbon 3/6, Registrar of Incorporated Societies £2.2.0, Legal expenses £5.5.0, Library Books £10.1.6, Ledger, Journal and Cash Book 11/6, Audit Fee £3.3.0 and Secretary's Salary £35.0.0. It would appear that the year finished with a credit balance of £8.18.9. Special displays were made by the two principal wholesale firms and their usual generosity was manifest for educational needs and social occasions. They were Messrs Arthur Cocks & Co. Ltd and Standard Optical Company of Australasia.

CHAPTER 2

THE EARLY YEARS

The early years of this country have many fascinating stories with the chief endeavours being to bring some of this fair land into subjection, to provide a livelihood for the settlers, some education for their children and a breath of difference from the motherland. Much of this developed into a lifetime of grinding toil largely of a manual or physical nature. Only the favoured few, mostly in the larger settlements of population, had the means or the leisure to pursue the arts of literature, music and society living. The expectation of life was considerably shorter also (around 40 years in 1900) so that the visual needs associated with the genteel arts of the age were less pressing and the factors of presbyopia and senile ocular changes were much less. It may then be assumed that it was not until near the turn of the century that optical aids were more widely sought. As in Europe, it is probable that the occasional needs of the populace were met in some measure by jewellers and goldsmiths who possessed skills in the metals of frames to which were fitted mostly spherical, convex or flat lenses: occasionally concave were used.

Around this period, really in 1897, a Mr A. Levi who had set up business in Hawkes Bay, came to Wellington and with appropriate advertisement for the times commenced business on the site in Lambton Quay where Whitcoulls stands today. He described himself "as a Consulting and Manufacturing Optician and N.Z. Agent for N. Lazarus and Co. of London". It was a single storey wooden building of 600 square feet "with a beautiful room equipped with all the latest appliances in sight testing etc." A biography is available. Associated with him was Mr T. H. Morrison training as a mechanic and who was later to establish the firm of Morrison and Gilberd. Mr T. Peacock was firmly established in Auckland and Messrs Lonsdale and Proctor were soon to commence in Christchurch. The partnership of G. and T. Young in Dunedin also commenced some optical work before 1905 and the Dick family business likewise turned to spectacle work especially following the importation of a treadle surfacing machine. In most areas surfacing equipment was only gradually appearing so that many lens orders for flat cylindrical compounds were despatched to Sydney or Melbourne with long and frustrating delays in fulfilment. Bevelling was mostly done by treadle machines fitted with Arkansas stones. In 1898 Mr E. M.

Sandston returned from England with some English optical education and then established, on a consulting basis, the first business in Christchurch.

The needs in the main centres were growing and this probably prompted Messrs S. Barry of Auckland and H. S. Gilberd to proceed to England, seek the necessary tuition and sit a recognised qualifying examination. Both the chief English examination bodies, the Spectacle Makers Company and the British Optical Association, have fine records of those times and something more of the British contribution to local optometry will be recorded later. In 1902 the firm of Arthur Cocks & Co. Ltd established themselves in Victoria Street, Wellington as wholesalers, both in optical goods and jewellery, and more importantly they established a complete prescription service for lenses and frames.

Some semblance of an optical network was thus taking shape throughout the country which resulted in some alarm and opposition from the medical profession. In this situation there was much ebb and flow, mistakes were made, elements of misunderstanding appeared, areas of co-operation developed, communications were sometimes good, sometimes bad, and over all some fog of mistrust existed. Gradually out of this the opticians developed some sense of unity of purpose and objective, inspired particularly by Mr W. E. Suckling, then of Christchurch.

So it was that on 1 February 1912 at Barretts Hotel, Lambton Quay, Wellington (in which is enshrined so much other history) a meeting of interested and available opticians was held. The attendance comprised Mr E. M. Sandston (Chairman), Messrs W. G. Bright, G. Chance, A. Glenhome, P. G. Dick, W. C. T. Gay, J. B. Gerrard, H. S. Gilberd, B. Falck, W. McBride, B. Moyes, W. D. Stubbs, W. E. Suckling, H. Spear and A. W. J. Wychodil.

The result was the formation of the New Zealand Optical Association with Mr W. E. Suckling as first President and Mr B. Falck as Secretary. This year of 1912 was an intensive one for the office-bearers, as the science of optics was being practised in all sorts of divergences, with little modicum of uniformity and in a few cases with little honesty. From one viewpoint it was similar to much of New Zealand affairs; in politics New Zealand had just received the status of a Dominion, in commerce the import/export relationship was evolving and in communications and living patterns the populace were establishing a New Zealand style. So the year was spent in all the tasks of an organisation which seemed to have both short and long term serious needs; perhaps summarised as firstly, co-operation, secondly, some system of education and thirdly, as a corollary, control by suitable legislation.

On 27 and 28 March 1913, a national conference of the New Zealand opticians was held in Christchurch with Mr G. Chance as the elected chairman, Messrs F. Curtis, W. C. T. Gay, J. B. Clarke, W. McBride and

W. J. Watson as committee and Mr B. Falck as general secretary—sub-secretaries appointed were Mr W. E. Suckling (Auckland), Mr E. M. Sandston (Wellington) and Mr H. Neill (Dunedin). The chairman, the four secretaries and Mr H. S. Gilberd were voted to form the first recorded Parliamentary Committee—the agitation and endeavour for recognition had started! Even at this stage there was no uniformity of designation for anyone engaged in optics (and few were fulltime). Possibly the terms "Spectacle Specialist" or "Consulting Optician" were the most frequent. The final designation of optometrist as of today was achieved after pursuing varied and tortuous paths. This will be developed further later.

A period of stagnation appeared to occur at this stage although within the Association zealous members were striving to create the impetus necessary to achieve the various objectives. A routine meeting of the committee was held in Christchurch on 28 February 1914 which was followed on 30 April by a general meeting in Messrs Coote and Sandston's Rooms, 334 Lambton Quay, Wellington at which the small attendance was Messrs H. S. Gilberd, T. H. Morrison, A. Grant, H. W. Littlejohn, H. Spear, E. M. Sandston, J. B. Clarke and H. H. Coote. This was essentially a Wellington representation and probably not an Annual General Meeting of all members. The date is ominous, of course, because the Dominion along with the rest of the Empire was on the eve of the First World War of four years' duration, to the successful conclusion of which all other endeavours were subjugated. The Association as can be imagined went into recess without any revival until 1922. Nevertheless it is appropriate, as the British optical organisations have so admirably done, that a long term record of those "vision" pioneers be preserved. All have passed on but the following is a list although it will, perforce, have omitted many post-war personalities:- Messrs L. Azzopardi, L. Andrews, S. Barry, W. Bright, J. Bremner, H. H. Coote, F. Curtis, J. B. Clarke, G. Chance, E. B. Davies, B. Falck, T. R. Gordon, H. S. Gilberd, J. B. Gerrard, J. Grant, W. C. T. Gay, J. D. Gilmore, P. G. Dick, J. A. Haslett, W. McBride, H. W. Littlejohn, H. Neill, T. H. Morrison, W. E. Suckling, H. Spear, N. D. Stubbs, H. M. Smith, J. R. Wood, E. M. Sandston, A. G. Shrimpton, W. Moyes, W. A. Taaffe, W. J. Watson and W. S. Young.

Many of these members were known to the writer in greater or lesser degree and details of a considerable number can be obtained from the Archives Section.

The story of these pre-formative years recommenced on 1 March 1922 when the New Zealand Optical Association having more or less dissolved itself through lapse of time, prompted a meeting to be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Boulcott Street, Wellington. In the list of names present were many of the pre-war era. Some of them had served overseas in varying capacities but their services and/or casualties are not recorded. This, however, was the period of endeavour to get farming and commerce back to peace-time levels and no less was it so in optical circles. A new start seemed very desirable. Much discussion ensued to determine a suitable and acceptable title. It was finally decided that Mr T. G. Young's proposal, seconded by Mr S. F. McLean, be adopted and thus was formed the "Institute of Optometrists of New Zealand (Inc.)". Some of the other names mooted were "The New Zealand Optometrical Association" (many years ahead of its time and showing that not many things are new), "The Institute of Ophthalmic Opticians" (as in Britain) and the "New Zealand Optical Institute".

In the years ahead strong opposition from the medical profession to the use of the word "optometrist", compelled the fledgling profession to gradually accept and adjust to "optician", which, speaking now in retrospect, has prevailed with diminishing validity and frequency until almost the present time. Thus there has been this see-saw battle in terminology for the individual, irrespective of his own particular preference and also in the professional body over the whole period of this history, culminating in the final legal determination of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Act, 1976.

The members present at the 1922 meeting elected Mr H. S. Gilberd (President), Mr H. W. Littlejohn (Vice-President), Mr W. E. Suckling (Secretary), Mr H. Spear (Treasurer) with a committee of Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor, H. H. Coote, A. Grant, G. K. Neill, E. A. Sargent, G. E. Read Snr, W. A. Taaffe and T. G. Young.

Within a fortnight and with a sense of urgent endeavour, the committee had drafted a letter to a Mr Greenfield of Brisbane (who had prepared Bills for the Queensland, Victorian and South Australian Parliaments) to seek his assistance and guidance in the preparation of a legislative programme suitable for New Zealand. This activity demonstrated so strongly the importance placed on the gaining of suitable legislation and ensuing regulations at the earliest possible time. Of course, political attitudes and medical opinion must be intermingled into the overall prevailing situation. During the initial year (1922) eighty-one members were elected which must have represented nearly all the optometrists of standing or quality in the Dominion, and the affairs of the Institute were surely discussed formally or informally whenever and wherever a group of members assembled.

Membership was governed by two clauses in the Rules:-

1) Membership shall consist of bona-fide optometrists of good repute residing and practising in New Zealand and in conformity with the definition of the status of an optometrist as set out in the succeeding clause.
2) A bona-fide optometrist eligible for membership under Clause 1 shall be defined as any person of good repute over the age of 21 who is using part of an establishment for sight-testing, equipped as a proper testing room, and is scientifically fitting

spheres, compounds, cylinders and prisms within the recognised methods of sight-testing etc.

After much countrywide enquiry and comparisons, the 1923 Conference approved a price list of a fairly comprehensive nature covering both lenses and frames—the latter were of few types and thus could be easily categorised. A few examples of bevelled lenses only were as follows: sphericals to 4D, 12/6 per pair; 4D to 6D, 15/- per pair and so on whilst compounds of first division were 17/6; those of say 8.50D to 10.50D were 27/6. Torics were much more expensive e.g., first division meniscus were 20/- and first division torics compounds were 32/6; Kryptoks in toric forms ranged from 62/6 to 72/6. A steel or nickel frame was usually 7/6, rimless mountings were 17/6 and G.F. frames were 12/6 (usually 1/10th 10ct). Cement bifocals were about 15/- extra. A full list is available in the archives and inflationary factors did not apply. In fact, the word "inflation" was hardly known. An essay competition was initiated this year and the winner proved to be Mr Norman Stouppe with Mr Selwyn Dawe second. Over the succeeding years this competition proved to be highly stimulating and it did much to foster competition between regions or associations and also between individuals. Mr W. W. McKinney donated a silver cup for annual competition and it was a much desired honour among associations to be the holder of the cup. Individual prizes were also awarded in theoretical and practical sections. The prize monies came from individual donations and strong support from the wholesale houses. Mr W. G. Kett of Sydney acted in an honorary capacity as judge. He was a great friend to New Zealand optometry over a very long period.

The vexed question of education gave the Executive much thought and the final examination schedule adopted was a fine tribute to the thoroughness of the research involved. The number of students was always small and their locations were so scattered that even a small permanent school was not feasible. Mr W. E. Suckling, ever foremost in this subject, eventually came to the conclusion that a correspondence school was the only practical solution, and he himself was largely responsible for the examination schedule. A copy is available and briefly it comprised four sections:-

Section A -	Written; comprising light, optics, prisms, lenses and instruments.
Section B -	Practical; Analysis of lenses, lens setting, frame fitting and measurements and neutralising of lenses.
Section C -	Written; Eye anatomy, physiology and optics of the eyes, instruments, refractive errors, muscular errors, test types and astigmatic charts.
Section D -	Viva Voce; Anatomy of the eye. Practical subjective testing on living subjects. Retinoscopy on living subjects and model eyes. Ophthalmoscopy.

Examinations: The first examination was held on the 3 and 4

December 1923, under the directorship of Mr H. S. Gilberd with twelve candidates in the first division and six in the second. Mr W. G. Kett, F.S.M.C., F.I.O. of Sydney conducted both Sections A and C. His contribution in the setting and marking of papers was an outstanding contribution to the New Zealand system. His period of service stretched long into the examinations of the Opticians Board with an unfailing efficiency and almost on an honorary basis. He was always a great student himself.

His 1923 comments are worthy of record: "The papers submitted in both sections showed a high standard of optometrical education. The standard set was that of the organised British examining authorities and the percentage of passes was equal to that obtained by those teaching bodies. That the Institute of Optometrists of New Zealand, so recently formed, could have established a course in optometry, provided teaching facilities and attained a standard that was so good, is indeed remarkable and one which has not been excelled in Australasia."

The examinations were divided into two divisions and separate certificates were issued for each division. Mr G. S. Carmichael was the holder of Certificates number one and his two certificates, suitably mounted, are in the Archives section, thanks to the generosity of the late Mr Carmichael. They represent New Zealand's first Certificates in Optometry.

With the standard set so high by the Institute, the correspondence courses devised by Mr Suckling and the capable conducting of the theoretical sections by Mr Kett, together with the availability of widespread high craftsmanship in the practical sections, the Opticians Board on its establishment in 1929 granted ready recognition and registrations to all holders of the Institute's Certificates.

Legislation, as nearly always has been the case, was to prove a long and arduous task. The zeal and desire of the Institute membership was present in full abundance and this was the special aspect that gained and activated a number of new members. In 1923, a draft Bill was prepared which despite the absence of legal phraseology makes very interesting reading even today. A deputation interviewed the Minister of Health with these draft provisions. He promised to bring the proposals to Cabinet consideration. Means were adopted to acquaint the public with the suggested Bill via newspaper articles and interviews whilst emphasising the public benefits and protection such legislation could provide.

Medical opposition was quite strong and an attempt to enter into discussion with a B.M.A. Branch was firmly rejected. The reasons given were that such legislation was not in the best interests of the community and some encroachment on medical practice could arise. It was to become more and more apparent that the Institute's objective was going to be difficult to achieve and six years of endeavour stretched to 1928 before the many obstacles were overcome. In 1924, there were several interviews with the Health Department and the Minister concerned, which resulted in instructions being given for a Bill to be prepared as a Government measure. This was a considerable advance and the Bill was drafted for the 1925 Parliamentary session, but, as is not uncommon with smaller Bills, it was sacrificed at the end of the session rush. Another year had passed.

The 1926 year saw the introduction of the first N.Z. Opticians Bill which received a fairly sympathetic response in the House of Representatives and it actually passed its second reading. It was then referred to the Public Health Committee where it was shelved. In 1927, a new Bill was introduced into the Lower House with some modifications but again objections were raised by the British Medical Association to the title of "Optometrists". Modification of this obstacle was promised by the Bill's promoters and it would appear that other aspects of technical difficulty then arose. By the time each fresh problem was somehow resolved there was no parliamentary space left for further procedure that session. A promise was obtained, however, from the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. J. G. Coates, that the Bill would be dealt with early in the next session. A general election was due at the end of 1928 so the Prime Minister's promise had considerable significance.

In 1928 and supplementary to the Prime Minister's promise, an even more intensive campaign was launched, sub-committees were formed in the various centres and individual members of the Institute were deputed to interview the Member of Parliament for their electorate. No effort was being spared to win the long coveted goal—recognition of the profession—and perhaps an extract from the Minutes of that year (1928) would be of interest. "Messrs H. Gilberd and T. Young interviewed the Minister of Health at the House and acting on the Minister's advice, Sir John Luke was requested to ask a question without notice. As a result of the question, the Opticians Bill passed its first reading in the Lower House on 31 July 1928. The next day it occupied third place on the order paper but it was later deferred to the listing of Private Members' Bills." The district committees had been supplied with copies of the Bill, also comments for newspaper publication and all committees and deputed interviewers were urged to approach and lobby their M.P.'s on every available opportunity.

This stubborn Bill was deferred time and again and it was hardly possible to imagine the suspense the Executive and working members laboured under at each new development, good or bad. Triumphantly on 6 October 1928, the Bill was finally passed in all its stages through both the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council and then only awaited the formality of the Vice-Regal Assent. Thus the Bill became the Opticians Act 1928, number 40. It consisted of 22 clauses, and was printed by the Government Printer, W. A. G. Skinner, price sixpence.

Record must be made, even in an abbreviated form and without full justice being given, because "they built better than they knew" of some of the members who were prominent throughout these years of struggle. They were widely scattered throughout the country and each contributed his part as occasion demanded, but the Central Executive without doubt bore the brunt of the organising worries. To them must go a major part of the credit in this memorable achievement. Mr H. S. Gilberd was President throughout the lifetime of the Institute of Optometrists (1922-1929) with Mr S. E. Suckling as Secretary until 31 December 1928 when he was succeeded by Mr J. P. Stouppe. The 1928 Executive was composed of Mr T. G. Young as Vice-President with a committee of Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor, H. H. Coote, S. F. McLean, H. Spear, E. A. Sargent and N. Stouppe (Wellington), C. Martyn (Auckland), F. J. Glackin (Christchurch), H. Neill and W. V. Sturmer (Dunedin). This was the Executive of Victory.

In 1929 a change came over the personnel, the most notable feature being the assumption of the Presidency by Mr E. A. Sargent (replacing Mr H. S. Gilberd for other future duties) and the committee was, in this last year of its existence, Messrs G. C. Abbott, H. H. Coote, H. S. Gilberd, H. Spear, and T. G. Young (Wellington), H. Grocott (Hamilton), H. M. Bennett (Napier), W. W. McKinney (Christchurch), G. K. Neill and W. V. Sturmer (Dunedin) and T. D. Peacock (Auckland). Mr R. Brooke-Taylor was Vice-President.

In review, the contribution of Mr W. E. Suckling as honorary secretary was a mighty one in the administrative sphere; and superimposed on this was his extensive and constant educational programme of correspondence. Much of the legislative programme in its finer detail was left in his competent hands. His name will ever stand high in the history of New Zealand optometry coupled with that of his wife, Lois, who was his constant help. In the next few years when ill-health intervened, Mrs Suckling continued to organise and provide rooms, patients and equipment for the final year candidates in the practical and clinical fields. In addition, members of local committees, local associations and the wholesale optical houses (always the most willing of friends) put their full effort into achieving this legislative achievement. The following non-executive members should be recorded for their particular contributions; Messrs P. G. Dick, E. B. Davies, J. B. Gerrard, R. A. Noedl, F. Curtis, R. A. Batstone, B. Falck, T. D. Peacock, T. L. Cocks, C. W. Shepley, E. M. Sandston, J. R. Wood, W. S. Young, J. D. Gilmore and many others. Apologies are tendered to all those who ably contributed but whose names have been omitted.

Thus 1928 saw New Zealand optometry come to full recognition and this marked one of its finest hours. It was truly the crowning success of years of endeavours, hopes and set-backs, and this country had an Opticians Act operating from 1 January 1929. At this time there were few instances of optometric legislation in the world and it is doubtful if any conferred the powers of this Act. It should be noted perhaps that the objections of the British Medical Association were upheld in the legislative process and in particular the designation of persons registered under this Act must be "Opticians". Full legal right was conferred on all registered opticians to henceforth examine eyes and prescribe glasses for any visual defect found and the use of this designation was expressly denied to anyone not so registered other than medical practitioners.

It was thus apparent immediately that, under this Act, a complete reorganisation even in name was necessary for the "Institute of Optometrists Inc." Therefore on 30 October 1929, a Special General Meeting was held in Seaters Building, Customhouse Quay, Wellington at which it was decided to go into voluntary liquidation. The meeting appointed Messrs E. A. Sargent and R. Brooke-Taylor as liquidators. This procedure was confirmed at a further Special General Meeting on 4 December and the final Conference was set for Dunedin on 25 to 28 February 1930, and so the early years closed and flowed over into the new era of the "Institute of Opticians Inc."

CHAPTER 3

THE OPTICIANS BOARD

The Opticians Act, influencing the livelihood of a relatively small number of citizens but affecting the visual care and attention of unnumbered thousands of citizens over a period of nearly fifty-two years, was enacted in the last year of the Reform Government. It would be an interesting political speculation to surmise its fate if there had been a postponement of one year taking it into the United Party's Government of 1929.

The chief provisions of this Act have been recorded here in summarised form whilst the full Act may be obtained from the Archives or the Government Printer.

PART I: The early clauses of the Act provided for the constitution of the Board which should consist of the Registrar (The Director-General of Health or his deputy), two persons registered as opticians appointed on the recommendation of the Minister of Health and one registered medical practitioner with special knowledge of diseases of the eye appointed in the same manner as for the opticians.

Their tenure of office was limited to three years; they could be reappointed or they could resign; they could be removed from membership for insolvency, neglect of duty or misconduct. If any member died, retired or was removed from office, a replacement appointee must be made within two months in the same manner as above. Allowance and travelling expenses would be in accordance with normal procedures.

The Registrar would be the Chairman of the Board and he would determine the times and places for meetings. In addition, he would maintain a register of all duly registered opticians and such other particulars as would be determined from time to time. On payment of the prescribed fee, a person would be entitled to registration provided (a) that he had been engaged, wholly or partly, either on his own account or as an employee, in practice as an optician in New Zealand for four years prior to this Act or (b) he had had satisfactory training and was the holder of a certificate or documentary evidence pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board or (c) he had passed an examination after a course of three years in accordance with regulations as prescribed by the Board.

PART II: This section (clauses seven to thirteen) was mainly procedural and regulatory. It embraced the need for a statutory declaration of veracity to accompany each application for registration. All applicants must be of good character and reputation and over 21 years of age. The Board must issue to each accredited optician on payment of the prescribed fee a certificate of registration under the hand of the Registrar. A penalty of £50 was prescribed for any wrongful procuring of registration. The Board was provided with powers to remove from the register any person guilty of improper conduct or convicted of any offence punishable by imprisonment or who had been registered in error.

Any person who had been declined registration or who had been removed from the register had conferred on him the right to appeal to a Board of Appeal, consisting of a Magistrate and two assessors. This Board's decision would be final and conclusive. Power was also conferred on the Board to prescribe an annual practising fee, the provision of any further prescribed particulars and the publication in the Gazette of those registered. Such publication would be full proof of registration or otherwise for the prescribed period.

PART III: The Board was given authority to direct, control and conduct all examinations pertaining to this Act, to appoint examiners and make such other arrangements for the holding of examinations as required; it might also grant or refuse certificates of having passed such examinations.

PART IV: Then, in clauses 16 to 21, ensued the disciplinary and administrative provisions proper to this type of legislation. No person, under a penalty of a fine of £20, was permitted to use any procedure which might reasonably cause any person to believe he was a registered optician. Similarly any unregistered person who practised or professed to practise as an optician was subject on conviction to the same penalty. No person, except a registered medical practitioner, was permitted to describe himself as an oculist. The administration of any drug to paralyse the accommodation of the eye, or any treatment by drugs for diseases of the eye, was expressly forbidden under this Act to any person other than a registered medical practitioner. All receipts and payments pertaining to this Act would form part of the Consolidated Fund. Finally, the Governor-General by Order in Council would prescribe the forms for application and registration, for prescribing the scope and conduct of examinations, for prescribing the fees payable for examination, registration and the annual renewal as published in the Gazette, for prescribing the certificates, diplomas, degrees or other evidence of qualification recognisable by the Board to qualify the holders to registration, for the appointment of assessors and the conduct of appeals, and for such other matters as were expedient for the effective administration by the Board of this Act.

PART V: The customary saving provisions were thereafter inserted in Clause 22. They provided permission for any registered chemist under the Pharmacy Act (1980) to supply drugs for eye irrigation or producing local anaesthesia for the removal of any foreign body; any wholesale dealer was permitted to supply frames, ophthalmic lenses, or spectacles in the course of wholesale business; no provision was incorporated to prevent any person selling from a permanent place of business, spectacles kept in stock in a state ready for use; any person engaged in lens grinding or spectacle making was allowed to continue his craft; finally any person was permitted to fill or dispense prescriptions for spectacles or lenses prescribed by a medical practitioner or optician.

No time was wasted by the outgoing Minister of Health, the Hon. J. A. Young, or the incoming Minister of Health, the Hon. J. G. Cobbe, in the 1928-29 change of Governments. They must have quickly given their approval to the Deputy Director General of Health, Dr M. H. Watt, to proceed with the immediate constitution of the Board, acting in his capacity as Registrar. So it was that at 11 a.m. on 14 February 1929, the first meeting of the Board was held in the office of the Deputy Director-General of Health, Parliamentary Library Buildings.

Present were: Dr M. H. Watt, (Chairman), Dr G. W. Harty, Mr H. S. Gilberd, Mr T. G. Young, Mr C. J. Drake, chief clerk of the Health Department, was appointed as secretary and authorised to use all the powers pertaining to this position. Dr G. W. Harty was a noted Wellington ophthalmologist and he had played a prominent part in the passage of this Act. In fact, he demonstrated an active and abiding interest in optometrical affairs over a period of thirty years and was well known to many candidates in Section D. He was the official representative on the Board for the British Medical Association until 1949. A long record of faithful service and his professional worth was recognised by his colleagues in appointing him Patron of the Ophthalmological Society.

This initial meeting, very much exploratory, considered some draft regulations, but their final approval was postponed. Nevertheless the fee for registration under Clause 6 was set at £5.00. It was decided to advertise three times in all the main daily papers in New Zealand explaining the requirements of the Act and advising all persons who were involved or interested to apply for registration, and for this purpose a suitable registration form was to be drafted. This epochal meeting closed at 12.15 p.m., having lasted seventy-five minutes.

Imagination permitted an onlooker to visualise the two optician members wending their way along Lambton Quay's serpentine route frequently subjected to the balmy breezes from the northerlies or the toughening rigors of the southerlies. The route had its congestion in those days with double tram lines in the centre and slow-moving unregulated traffic on each side. Around this time—actually a little later—the rollicking semi-open trams were gradually replaced with the Fiducia type, fully enclosed and considered the acme of beauty, comfort and warmth. Even the conductor smiled pleasantly whilst dispensing his penny or twopenny tickets or clanging his clearance bell. Dr Harty's route was shorter being only some hundreds of yards down The Terrace.

The second meeting on 27 May, produced a long list of registrations to be carefully vetted. Many were approved; some were held for further investigation and two were declined. The secretary was truly occupied with inward and outward correspondence. It was noteworthy that Mr H. S. Gilberd and Mr T. G. Young received due recognition by having the honour of being the first two names on the Register. The third meeting on 15 July resolved that the fee for publication of the opticians name in the Gazette be one guinea per annum. Many registrations were granted within one of two sub-sections viz, Para. (a) of Section 6 (1) which encompassed those persons who could produce certified evidence of previous practice in the art of optics and Para. (b) of the same section which embraced those persons holding acceptable overseas qualifications. Also the burden of conducting examinations was extensively surveyed and it was decided to ask the Institute of Optometrists to continue its examination schedule for the current year, i.e. 1929. Around this time, Mr C. E. Wynne became acting secretary in lieu of Mr C. J. Drake. These departmental officials ably carried the day to day affairs of the Board which in the first few years entailed much organisation. The earliest overseas qualifications date noted was that of Mr J. W. Ewen D.B.O.A., 1906.

In this initial period there were frequent meetings of the Board, often at two monthly intervals. The matters dealt with were registrations, special cases, enquiries concerning many details especially training needs. Some meetings were quite protracted. As a consequence of complaints, the Board took definite and decided action on advertising situations in terms of its powers described in Part IV.

The Board continued to wrestle with the many intricacies of examinations. It was anxious to set standards and conditions that were sensible, sound and stable and that would, if possible, endure with no modifications for a goodly period. Subsequent years were to prove that the Second Schedule of the 1930 Regulations fulfilled the fledgling needs admirably. So it was that the meeting of 6 June 1930 gave final approval to the Second Schedule. The Board had decided to conduct the examinations itself henceforth, guided in the procedures by the experience of the Institute of Optometrists. In this policy of continuity, it was agreed to ask Mr W. G. Kett of Sydney to set and mark the two written papers in each of Sections A and C. The Board reserved the right to alter any question in these papers should that be necessary—a right never exercised. Mr Kett's fees for services and corrections were discussed and subsequently negotiated.

The first Board of Examiners were:

Mr H. S. Gilberd - Supervisor
Mr W. G. Kett - Sections A and C

Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor and R. A. Batstone - Section B
Messrs T. G. Young and E. A. Sargent - Section D
Dr G. W. Harty - Viva Voce on anatomy and pathology of the eye.

These examinations with their considerable resemblance in syllabus and system to those of the preceding Institute were held on 10, 11 and 12 November 1930. These were important dates in that they marked the commencement of publicly approved examinations for opticians. The official era of education had had its birth. Mr R. T. Shanks was the recipient of the first Diploma issued by the Board. It was signed by all the Board members—a practice that continued for many years.

Long discussions and much thought commenced so as to establish a pattern on which to fashion the requirements of training establishments that would receive the necessary approval, whereby new students could be trained. Conditions varied considerably throughout the country, the volume and quality of mechanical and refractive work varied in each case considered and the calibre and knowledge of each registered optician concerned was another factor. Furthermore, there were no useful precedents to act as guidlines. Regulations were promulgated on 23 June 1930 governing the requirements for approval of a registered training establishment which, in addition enabled the Board to inspect, revoke or ask for further information at any time. The period of approval was normally for three years, the period of training for any student. A section not exceeding 24 months was permitted to be spent by a student in a wholesale prescription house. Every registered optician with an approved establishment was required to notify the Board within one month of his acceptance of a trainee and likewise advise the Board of any cessation of training. Each trainee was obliged to satisfy the Board that he held the Matriculation examination or its equivalent. Various saving provisions were incorporated to ensure equitable treatment for special cases, and especially did this apply to various establishments and trainees who had some special circumstances to present, concerning situations or obligations applicable before the promulgation of the Regulations. There was much sympathetic consideration by the Board and the Secretary (Mr C. E. Wynne) to obtain the smooth application of the requirements and as a consequence to provide an adequate flow of trainees. All these activities were suitably conveyed to each registered optician in explanatory circulars.

The Third Schedule of the 1930 Regulations recognised the following qualifications as satisfying Clause 6 (b) and thereby permitting registration:-

Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, London
Fellowship of the British Optical Association, London
Dioptric Certificate of the British Optical Association, London
Diploma of the Institute of Optometrists, New Zealand

It was in April 1935 that Mr C. J. Drake re-assumed the duties of secretary from Mr C. E. Wynne who had performed the tasks as acting secretary for five years and who earned the gratitude of many opticians by his humane explanations of perplexing points in the regulations. At the same meeting, the Board ruled that all trainees must fulfil 1600 hours per annum in their approved training establishment.

In the following months, regulations on advertising, which had previously been submitted to the Institute of Opticians for comment and review, were approved and despatched to the Crown Law Office. It proved to be a long time before any governmental implementation transpired but it is fruitful to give a summary of the Board's desires and recommendations.

(1) No advertising of prices, even for replacement parts, or advertising of free consultations.
(2) No house to house or personal canvassing.
(3) Nothing extravagant or deprecating to others, either direct or indirect in any advertisement.
(4) Restricted list of qualification abbreviations to be permitted.
(5) No newspaper advertisement to exceed 16 square inches.
(6) No hoarding on transport buses or trams etc.
(7) No mention of any association with any other calling, e.g. chemist, jeweller.
(8) A first reference was made to radio advertising and an endeavour would be made with the Minister of Health to include its prohibition.

Progress was slow and other events of greater significance were to intervene. Whilst the Institute of Opticians officially and many of its members individually, expressed their impatience on many occasions, the Board, fully aware of this lively and widespread pressure, was unable to get the governmental pathways cleared and some worthwhile regulations approved.

In 1939 Dr R. A. Shore took over the chairmanship of the Board, replacing Dr M. H. Watt. Dr Watt had given ten years service and had proved to be the ideal chairman in those somewhat perplexing years. The war years were now suddenly upon all New Zealand and the activities of the Board, which met less frequently, were increasingly of a routine nature. Still it was in May 1940, that the Board was enlarged by an additional member in terms of the Statutes Amendment Act 1938. Mr E. R. Boyd was appointed a member to represent employed opticians in conformity with the above Act. It was possible in 1942 to record the renewed interest in the long dormant draft advertising regulations. Despite many other pressing commitments, the Minister was able to give these regulations his consideration resulting in the Practising Regulations of 23 December 1942. These provided in summarised form, with effect from 1 January 1943,

(1) No advertising of free consultation, discounts, time payment or use

of credits, cash order or time payment systems.

(2) No personal canvassing by any optician or his agent.

(3) No extravagant advertising of his calling, services or wares, and no deprecatory reference to such affairs of any other person.

(4) No advertisement, illuminated or otherwise, by way of poster on any building or vehicle except on a building wherein the optician carries out his calling or a vehicle which constitutes his premises.

(5) No advertisement was permitted to refer also to any other business or profession that the optician may carry on. This would not apply to any building wherein the optician performed his calling and for his other activities.

(6) No optician was permitted in any notice or advertisement to use any description of himself or abbreviation of this description or any alphabetical letters except such as had been approved by the Board.

In this year, indicating the man-power stress of the war years, there were, for the first time in the Board's history, no candidates for Section D, and only eight candidates interspersed throughout Sections A to C. It was decided that trainees in the Armed Forces should have their service period recognised for training purposes, provided it was certified by the officer in charge of the appropriate unit. Dr F. S. McLean became chairman in September 1943, in lieu of Dr Shore who was in ill-health. The same meeting granted Mr E. R. Boyd leave of absence whilst on military duty in the Pacific. Mr T. G. Young advised that some substantive discussions had been taking place in Dunedin towards the commencement of a School of Optics. This possible development would affect profoundly the present system of examinations which had continued almost unchanged except in personnel since 1930, and whilst the Board realised the Dunedin proposals were only in the elementary stages the individual members indicated sympathy and interest. However, the next recorded action was in June 1945 when an official deputation of Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor, G. Neill, T. Peacock, H. Collett and H. Atkinson attended a Board meeting to explain the Institute of Opticians' report on founding a School of Optics in Dunedin. There was a free inter-play of discussion between the Board and the deputation from which it was agreed that the scheme required further study in cost factors and others areas. The Board was nevertheless sympathetic and appreciative, and it was decided to advise the Minister of Health of these investigations and possibilities.

Some months later, in fact in February 1946, a new item of concern appeared in the Board's proceedings, and this aspect of optometry and professionalism was to be a thorny and prickly question in many minds and meetings for many years. The Institute of Opticians had raised the question of "Company Trading" officially to the Board. Naturally there was a wide variety of company trading in relation to optometry and the Institute of Opticians recommended to the Board the passing of regulations preventing the formation of new companies somewhat anagalous to those following the Dentists Act (1936). It was also decided to propose to the Minister that the present companies be eliminated over a protracted period.

Around these years of 1948 to 1951, some important personnel changes occurred. In early 1948 Mr H. S. Gilberd died, and so passed one of optometry's warriors whose name showed in the earliest attempts at organisation and who had served the Board for 19 years with wisdom and dedication. Mr R. Brooke-Taylor was appointed as the new member. In the same year was the last signature of Mr C. J. Drake who also had served continuously the full term of the Board excepting for an interregnum of about six years with Mr Wynne. Mr Drake earned for himself high appreciation from Board members and very many opticians, and especially trainees for his fine gentlemanly qualities and his detailed understanding of the Act and its functioning. The Board and optometry had been splendidly served. His place was filled by Mr J. F. Tasker. Using 1951 as a sample year, the Board's examiners were as follows:

Section A - Mr J. G. Anderson
Section B - Messrs F. N. Chapman, W. T. Wilson, R. T. Shanks
Section C - Dr W. J. Hope-Robertson, Mr F. O. Davis
Section D - Messrs T. G. Young, H. Atkinson, G. E. Cox

The personnel varied somewhat from time to time.

Mr H. C. Collett replaced Mr E. R. Boyd in the capacity as employed optician in that same year.

In 1954 Mr T. G. Young resigned having completed a mammoth service of twenty-five years including the hardships and sacrifice of the long journey from Dunedin for attendance. His contribution to the Board's functions and optometry in general was exemplified by his quiet thoughtfulness and his constant courtesy to everyone and every viewpoint. Mr Young's replacement was Mr H. Atkinson of Auckland. It was in this same year that the Board decided to shift its location of examinations for Section D from Messrs Morrison and Gilberd's rooms to a new site. For some time thereafter, the Nurses Post-Graduate School was used, later in conjunction with the rooms of Mr G. E. Cox. For Sections B and D the Director of Examinations' role was always beset with difficulties either in the number of candidates, the suitability of the venue and its size and capability, and the arrangement of dates. Recorded also at the May meeting was the application and the granting of registration to Mr J. A. Fairmaid (Dunedin) whose application was the first bearing the qualification of Licentiate of Optometric Science (L.O.Sc.) from the Australian College of Optometry, Melbourne. There now appeared some reversion on Board level to the recommendation of the usage of the description "optometrist", for it was in January 1955 that the Board resolved that pursuant of the Opticians Regulations (1942) any optician may use in reference to himself, in any notice or advertisement relating to his calling, services or wares, the additional description "optometrist" and that the Minister of Health's approval should be sought.

Dr F. S. McLean resigned in 1956 after ten years of service; these years of post-war settlement and rehabilitation called from Dr McLean a high measure of sympathy and assistance in affairs optometrical. They had been difficult years. Dr L. S. Davis took up the chairmanship being succeeded in 1958 by Dr A. W. S. Thompson. In the same year Mr R. R. Cocks was appointed to the Board. There was at this time a growing interest within optometry towards the use of tonometers and the evaluation of whatever results that were obtained. The Board considered the desirability of this practice and issued a circular letter to all opticians suggesting it was desirable in cases of suspected raised intra-ocular pressure, that such patients should be referred for ophthalmological investigation.

During 1961, 15 years after the initial discussion, the troublesome question of company trading was reaching finality and coupled with it were suggested new regulations on disciplinary powers, very much akin to those of other comparable professions, recognised qualifications and also dispensing opticians. These regulations were drafted and referred to the Cabinet Legislative Committee and in due course the Minister of Health would place them on the Cabinet agenda for consideration. In the same year the first application was received for registration under the qualification of B.Sc.(Opt.) N.S.W. from Mr B. J. Russell.

Late in the same year, the Board was informed that active discussions had been occurring at Auckland towards the introduction of a University course leading to an optometric diploma. It appeared that the University Council had approved the proposals in principle, but more clarity on financial aspects was required. Further discussions were scheduled to take place with the Optometrical Association at an early date and some further proposals were thus to be placed before the University Grants Committee. Whilst the Board had no financial capabilities, a discussion and exchange of ideas on finance was useful and the Board expressed its interest and appreciation of this new endeavour.

It was eighteen months later when Mr H. Atkinson, as a Board member, asked the Board to give consideration to any legislative change that might be necessary if a University course eventuated. He reported that the Auckland University Council had approved the proposals for an optometry course and diploma, and furthermore had approved the appointment of an optometry lecturer for 1965. The next procedure was to obtain the approval of the Curriculum Committee of University Grants Committee and simultaneously the curriculum for the fourth year was still under decision, notably with the Optometrical Association. The Board fully realised the far-reaching significance of these proposals and changes, and it was fully aware of its final responsibility to ensure a satisfactory standard of specialised education acceptable for qualification and registration under the Opticians Act.

Fortunately it had weighty precedent in its experience of internal examinations extending over thirty years and also the recognition of satisfactory overseas curricula. At the end of 1963, Mr A. H. T. Rose was appointed to the Board replacing Mr R. R. Cocks who had resigned. In view of the imminent introduction of the Auckland University School, a series of resolutions were passed. They were to epitomise the passage into a new and as yet unknown era of optometrical examination.

(a) That 1964 be the last year in which any new student was allowed to attempt Section A.
(b) That students having attempted or passed Section A in 1964 were allowed six more years in which to complete the S.D.O. N.Z. under the existing schedules.
(c) That as from 1965 the Board recognised the Diploma in Optometry (Dip.Opt.) from Auckland University. Thereafter this Diploma was to be the only method of qualification within New Zealand and that it replaced the existing examinations conducted by the Board consistent with (b) above.

Simultaneously with all the consideration of the education situation, the Board was reviewing the need, necessity and ways and means of a new comprehensive Act, and a long meeting was held to take into account the extensive submissions of the three interested parties, the ophthalmologists, the optometrists and the optical dispensers. It was finally reported that in late 1964 a breakdown in the negotiations on the new Bill had occurred. This was a major disappointment to Dr A. W. S. Thompson, the Chairman, who was so enthusiastic for a comprehensive Act. New discussions and proposals, although unofficial, were still quietly proceeding. Meantime Mr H. Collett resigned from the Board and Mr R. R. Cocks returned to the Board. In the middle of 1966 the Board noted the painstaking substantial work of Dr T. P. Grosvenor who was the senior lecturer in optometry at the Pyschology Department, Auckland University. Dr Grosvenor had reported having six students in the third year, six students in the second year and eleven in the first year. The Board was informed that the usage of part-time honorary optometrists in particular fields was a definite success lending as it did some differing viewpoints and variety. Dr G. Talbot, during discussion, considered that post-graduate training with the Auckland Hospital might prove difficult due to the existing work pressure on the departments concerned. The Board, with its basic responsibility for registration, entered into an arrangement with the Auckland University whereby the Board would accept independent assessors' reports as regards students' acceptability for registration. The first year this procedure was adopted was 1967 when Dr L. G. Bell covered pathological knowledge and Mr J. A. Fairmaid was the assessor in subjective and objective optometry. Dr T. P. Grosvenor acted as Director of Examinations on behalf of the Board. Some laudatory remarks were made by the chairman when the Board was considering the assessors' reports. The basic functions throughout these and the next few years continued to be education, registration of optometrists and the application of the many aspects of professional practice. The steady and happy progress was disturbed when in June 1969, the Board was informed that Dr T. P. Grosvenor had accepted an appointment at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and would proceed there at the end of that academic year. The Board expressed its regrets at his loss and at the same time conveyed its good wishes to Dr Grosvenor. Around the same time, Dr A. W. S. Thompson, who had capably and enthusiastically steered the Board on the extensive developments in education and new legislation, relinquished the chairmanship. Dr H. J. H. Hiddlestone became the new Chairman in June 1970. The Board agreed at this stage to enlarge its composition somewhat by an additional ophthalmologist and an additional optometrist. The latter would be the senior optometrical person in the University's Psychology Department, and thus Associate Professor L. A. F. Stockley took a position on the Board along with Dr A. G. Sandston.

A somewhat new field of activity was the issuance of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to all optometrists. Mr R. R. Cocks had been a keen promoter and advocate of this reminder and guide by the statutory body, i.e. the Opticians Board, to all its registrants of what their professional attitudes and obligations should be. This initiative was followed up the following year (1971) by pamphlets on "Glaucoma" and "Cataract". These had been proposed by the Society for the Prevention of Blindness and they were vetted and amended by the Department of Health. Around this time (1971) Dr R. Dickie took over the temporary chairmanship in lieu of Dr H. J. H. Hiddlestone. Records would be amiss if there was no tribute paid to the abiding interest and continuing devotion of Dr Hiddlestone to optometrical affairs. It had started in a small way in Invercargill and the passage of years saw this interest become an intimate personal association, and his election to honorary membership in 1973. Dr R. Dickie became permanent Chairman in April 1973 and he has continued to render high class service throughout years of considerable change, reminiscent of the early Board years. Personnel changed in that Messrs R. R. Cocks and H. Atkinson resigned in 1973 and in December Messrs V. H. Nicholls and H. C. Russell were announced as the replacement members. The following two or three years saw much informal activity not reaching Board level yet with Board members playing substantial roles, all leading up to another optometrical epoch, viz., the final Board consideration and approval of the long awaited comprehensive Bill. This Bill was eventually to become the "Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Act (1976)" and in its legislative passage was sponsored by the Hon. F. Gill. Its provisions applied from 1 April 1977. In general terms, this Act provided for the considerations of the 1928 Act and its subsequent amendments, the recognition of the term "Optometrist", and the registration of Dispensing Opticians with provisions for their mode of practice, discipline and company trading. There were 55 Clauses in the Act and to record in an abbreviated form its content, the enactment has been divided into six parts.

PART I: Covered the constitution of the Board which was deemed to consist of four registered optometrists, one registered optometrist engaged in teaching optometry, two registered dispensing opticians, two ophthalmological specialists and one other person being an officer in the Department of Health. From this constitution arose provisions for the functioning of the Board, a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman, a deputy for the departmental officer, remuneration and travelling allowances, Penal Cases Committee and other committees, a Secretary to the Board and financial considerations.

PART II: Required four registers to be kept, i.e., of optometrists, of dispensing opticians, of practices of deceased opticians, and of companies eligible to carry on business as optometrists or as dispensing opticians. It continued with provisions concerning all the subsidiary situations arising from keeping these registers such as removal or change of name or address, registration provisionally or as overseas visitors, suspension or false statements.

PART III: Embraced disciplinary provisions and was largely centred around the Penal Cases Committee and the disciplining powers of the Board. It outlined the many procedural situations arising and the powers enjoined on the Board or Penal Cases Committee. Generally it had much similarity to the recent disciplinary powers conferred by Acts for some similar professions.

PART IV: Related to the practice of optometry and optical dispensing. It prescribed the issuance of annual practising certificates and prohibited all other persons from practising or publicising themselves as certified to practise. Clauses 42 and 43 provided in detail, and with care to avoid hardship, for the various situations of existing companies engaged in optometry and optical dispensing and prohibited the establishment of new companies. That part was very much in conformity with previous provisions except that it now included dispensing opticians.

PART V: Provided any affected individual who was dissatisfied with a decision or order of the Board on a wide range of matters to appeal within 28 days to the Supreme Court against part or all of the Board's decision or order. The Court's decision was defined as final and binding on all parties.

PART VI: Consisted of miscellaneous provisions largely of a machinery nature and customary in such legislation. Power was conferred to make regulations of a wide ranging nature, conducive to the good conduct of the professions of optometry and optical dispensing. A schedule was attached of enactments repealed. As a consequence of this Act, a new and enlarged Board was obligatory. After the procedures as prescribed in the Act, the new Board met on 4 April 1977 and comprised:-

Dr R. Dickie	Chairman - Health Dept.
H. C. Russell	Deputy Chairman - Optometrist
K. W. Mills	Optometrist
V. H. Nicholls	Optometrist
A. H. T. Rose	Optometrist
L. A. F. Stockley	Teaching Optometrist
A. Flynn	Dispensing Optician
D. A. Kennemore	Dispensing Optician
G. Fenwick	Ophthalmologist
A. G. Sandston	Ophthalmologist
Mrs W. A. Walker	Secretary

Much activity was ahead for the new Board; the provisions relating to optometrists remained substantially unaltered but there was a large arena of work involved in the creation of the register for dispensing opticians and the provision of some appropriate syllabus of examinations.

Two hundred and seventy six annual Practising Certificates were issued for the year ended March 1977 and an additional 12 for the March 1978 year. By 1979, there were 50 dispensing opticians. A new set of Regulations dated 12 April 1977 stipulated the fee for registration at $20.00 and the fee for an annual practising certificate at $8.00.

Recognisable qualifications for optometrists as per first schedule (1977) were published as:-

Diploma in Optometry of the University of Auckland.

Degree of Bachelor of Applied Science of the Victorian College of Optometry, Melbourne.

Degree of Bachelor of Science (Optometry) of the University of New South Wales.

Diploma in Applied Science (Optometry) of the Queensland Institute of Technology.

Diploma of the Licentiate of Optometric Science of the College of Optometry, Melbourne.

Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, London, obtained after 1 January 1968.

Fellowship of the British Optical Association, London, obtained after 1 January 1968.

Qualifications recognisable for dispensing opticians under second schedule:-

Fellowship of the Association of Dispensing Opticians, London.

At a meeting of the Board in December 1978, Dr G. Fenwick resigned and Dr H. Le Grice, also from Auckland, was later appointed as his successor.

Early in 1979, consistent with the more extensive provisions of the

1976 Act and the regulation of dispensing opticians, the Board issued a pamphlet described as Code of Practice and Professional Conduct. It consisted of seven pages. No such publication can be fully definitive yet it delineated most of the good things from the bad. The relationship between patient and optometrist was described in terms of mutual respect and trust, full confidentiality and the privacy of the patient's interests. A trust and collegiality was appropriate between optometrists, dispensing opticians and colleagues. Referrals between optometrists, medical practitioners and ophthalmologists was outlined in considerable detail and, in general, was probably much in line with the 1970 principles and also the procedures currently in general practice. Two small sections were devoted to the dispensing optician outlining his duties to faithfully dispense all prescriptions. Any technical matters of performance or wearing were to be referred back to the prescribing practitioner and any subsequent matters required similar treatment. A long section related to advertising under the title of Statements and Restrictions on Advertising. It traversed all the previous restrictions on advertising and reinforced them with interpretations and elaborations. Any person who committed a breach of this Statement, was liable to action by the Board under Clause 33 of the Act. Tendering was discouraged and the costs of services were to be based on the current approved fees for Government departments. Directory entries and practice names were expected to conform to generally accepted professional standards. The realms of public relations, i.e., press publications, press interviews, broadcasting and television, premises, shop fronts, windows etc. were all given suitable guidelines. The Code was not exhaustive and the Board remained the judge of conduct which might be derogatory to optometry and optical dispensing. It therefore reserved to itself all the disciplinary powers conferred on it by Parliament.

Recent regulations provided for a Certificate of Proficiency. The 1977 qualification regulations only provided for registration of applicants from the British examining bodies where certificates were dated later than January 1968. Holders of British Certificates prior to this date were ineligible for N.Z. registration but allowance was now provided for the University to examine such optometrists in Socio-Economic Optometry, in Clinical Optometry and in Practice Optometry and to set down whatever other prescriptions were deemed necessary. Upon a favourable University report, the Board was prepared to issue a Certificate of Proficiency permitting registration and practice within New Zealand. This facility has been used.

Here has been outlined a full fifty years of the Opticians Board's history. Possibly much has been left unsaid but the initial stages with five members has blossomed into a wide coverage of ten members. The rolling years without gathering too much moss propagated these substantial changes and the transport industry, for example, had a similar growth from bicycle to car and heavy vehicles. First the Board met in a room within the Gothic arches of the old Legislative Council Chambers. Meetings were arranged as circumstances required and the continuity of membership contributed much to easy consensus decisions flavoured by cordiality and mutual trust. A re-arrangement of the housing of the Health Department came about with the completion of the State Insurance Building in Lambton Quay in the pre-war years; an impressive construction of eight stories entered north and south through massive, slightly Bernini-like metallic pilars. In something like twenty years time, once more the Department and with it the headquarters of the Opticians Board moved location. This time the situation was on the west side of Lambton Quay into a yet larger building—the newly built McCarthy Trust Building in the midst of the modern complexes which so functionally utilise both Lambton Quay and The Terrace. The Board has with the years quietly earned in its edifying and elevating stance the approbation of all. Ad multos annos.

CHAPTER 4

THE INSTITUTE'S FIRST TEN YEARS

It would seem that the new Institute of Opticians (Incorporated) was formed on Thursday 27 February 1930. The Conference Report was somewhat vague on this point as the whole Conference embracing the liquidation of the Institute of Optometrists was from the Tuesday to the Friday. Matters involved in this inaugural meeting included the design of a seal, an optical research committee and the presentation of a gold medallion to the following members for their work in securing the passage of the Opticians Act: Messrs E. A. Sargent, R. Brooke-Taylor, T. G. Young, H. Spear, N. Stouppe, H. H. Coote and S. F. McLean. The previous year a suitable presentation had been made to Mr H. S. Gilberd.

The election of officers at the inaugural meeting was as follows:—
President - Mr E. A. Sargent
Vice-President - Mr R. Brooke-Taylor
Treasurer - Mr H. H. Coote
Executive - Messrs T. G. Young, H. S. Gilberd, H. Spear, G. E. Reid Jnr, F. G. Hayes-Towns, W. J. Watson, A. H. Fairmaid.

The President continued to guide the affairs of the Institute until the Conference in February 1938. Mr Sargent's guidance used the philosphy of "gentle does it", i.e., a steady thoughtful progress; guiding, chiding, and gliding members along in the light of circumstances. Wise was this contribution over his eight year period. As a replacement, the conference elected Mr R. Brooke-Taylor as the new President—the mentor and thought behind events over many years and a man at his prime. So naturally the Institute was to see another long period of outstanding leadership. The new vice-president was Mr G. E. Cox, younger and full of energy who was destined to carry some of the main burdens of the Institute over the next twenty-five years. The management, without frequent changes, vindicated itself in these years although circumstances were to change it in later years. With Messrs Gilberd and Young as Opticians Board members and with Messrs Sargent, Brooke-Taylor and Cox as the nucleus of the Institute Executive, a long period of stable government was assured. They were assisted by three other Wellington members to form the Central Executive until 1938 when an additional member was appointed. Throughout this period Mr Gilberd carried the duties of treasurer. It was an agreed procedure that the other three main centres should have at least one representative on the General Executive. A change was effected in 1936 when a motion was passed permitting nine committee men on the General Executive. The effect was to allow the Hawke's Bay and Palmerston North Optical Associations to be represented. Prior to this, these two local Associations were active and energetic but had only indirect contact with the Institute's policies and proceedings. The Central Executive met frequently, at least monthly or more often as occasion demanded, whilst the General Executive met only occasionally throughout the year. Although this functioning with a Central and General Executive was not entirely regulated by rules, its somewhat loose method of functioning stood the tests of time and efficiency. In fact, it has survived albeit with minor modification for the whole fifty years of this history.

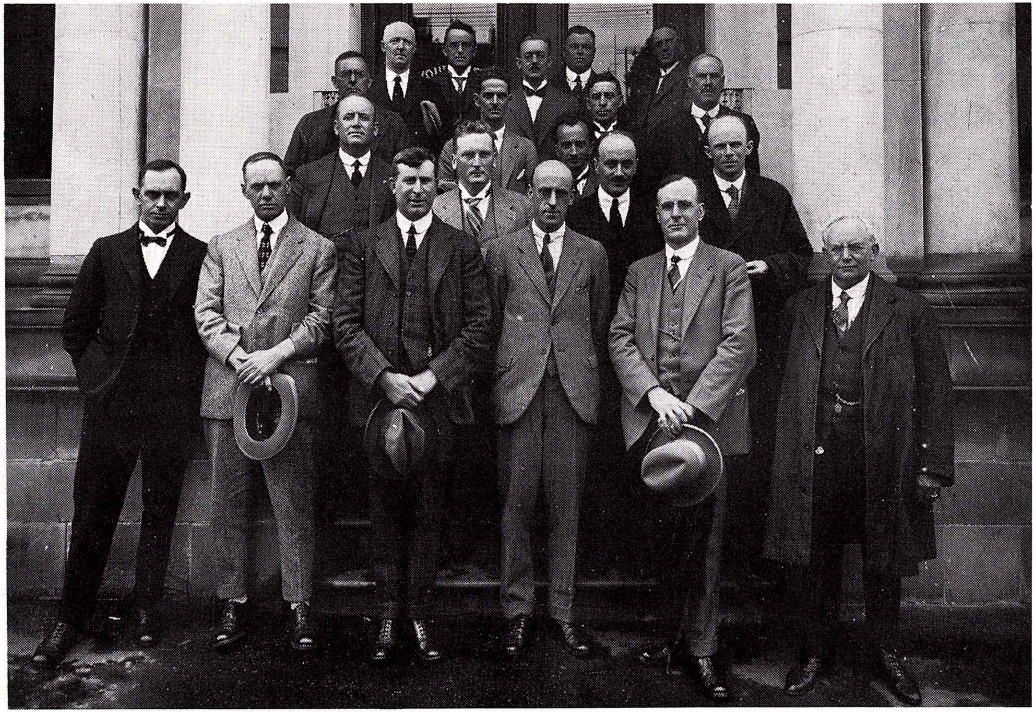
Whilst dealing with personnel and management, the change in secretaryship must be recorded. Mr J. P. Stouppe whose knowledge of circumstances and people assisted so greatly in the smooth working of the Institute's foundation, continued in the office of secretary until Mr R. H. Dellow was appointed in 1932. However in January 1935 Mr Stouppe returned to the secretaryship, until his resignation in 1936. The new secretary appointed was Mr L. A. Notley of 48 Willis Street, Wellington, a registered optician in the firm of Morrison and Gilberd Ltd. He was a tireless worker with much bonhomie and also a violin—often styled by himself as "me fiddle". His service extended over many years and of especial note were his labours throughout the war years. This period was served especially well by almost honorary service, and indeed the Institute has much to acknowledge in its five secretaries spanning the fifty years.

It is appropriate to look at the general prevailing situation in the 1930-1940 period. Just a year prior, had occurred a far away event largely unnoticed in New Zealand. It took the name of the "Great Wall Street Crash" and the shock waves soon extended to Great Britain and Europe. All values declined dramatically and in some areas near panic set in. The effects spread to New Zealand and economic stagnation progressively incresed. Never before in this century had the nation faced such problems. The Great Depression had arrived. The Government, a coalition because of the circumstances, was sincere but largely powerless. Malnutrition arrived, riots occurred, starvation was abroad despite an adequate food supply, labour camps were established, a compulsory wage reduction of 10% was instituted, a moratorium was declared on many mortgages and the country struggled. Goods were avilable but in so many cases neither work nor money was obtainable. In 1936, there were 35,774 unemployed plus 16,000 who had occasional work. This represented 9.5% of the work force. However, after these several disastrous and almost despairing years, the economic pendulum began to swing towards better times and the change of Government and a mood of optimism began to lighten the darkness. The political change was bold and daring. Along with the concept of work and well-being for all, came the promise of a comprehensive National Health Scheme. This scheme was to be prominent in the Institute's considerations for the next four years and it will be discussed further. When family, community, institutional and governmental stresses were so acute, the Institute under the steadying hand of its president survived those harrowing years, with considerable success. Projects were nurtured, future plans were made and even Conferences despite their expense were remarkable successes. For example the 1934 Conference at Dunedin attracted 29 members, the 1936 Conference at Christchurch had 39 members present and the 1939 meeting at Wellington had 50 members present. Similarly the membership of the Institute grew steadily; mostly with the influx of a new generation of keen, dedicated young men flowing through the examination system. It started in 1931 with 88 members and in 1933 the membership was 95 with six honorary members who were the principals of wholesale houses and also Mr W. G. Kett of Sydney. Membership had increased to 100 in 1934; 1935 saw 103 members and the transfer of Mr W. E. Suckling whose health was failing, to honorary member status; 1936 recorded 106 members and the transfer to honorary membership of Mr H. Spear, a stalwart pioneer from the earliest days; in 1937 the membership increased to 119 persons, and 1938 registered another rise to 122 members and the election of the first life member, Mr F. G. Hayes-Towns who had returned to London. Only an addition of two members is recorded for 1939 whilst 1940 produced a membership lift to 134 members and 10 honorary members. It may be useful to record the honorary membership consisting of Messrs R. A. Batstone, B. Falck, T. L. Cocks, C. W. Shepley, F. Hannaford and G. W. James (wholesale representatives), W. E. Suckling, H. Spear and H. Deverell (retired members) and W. G. Kett.

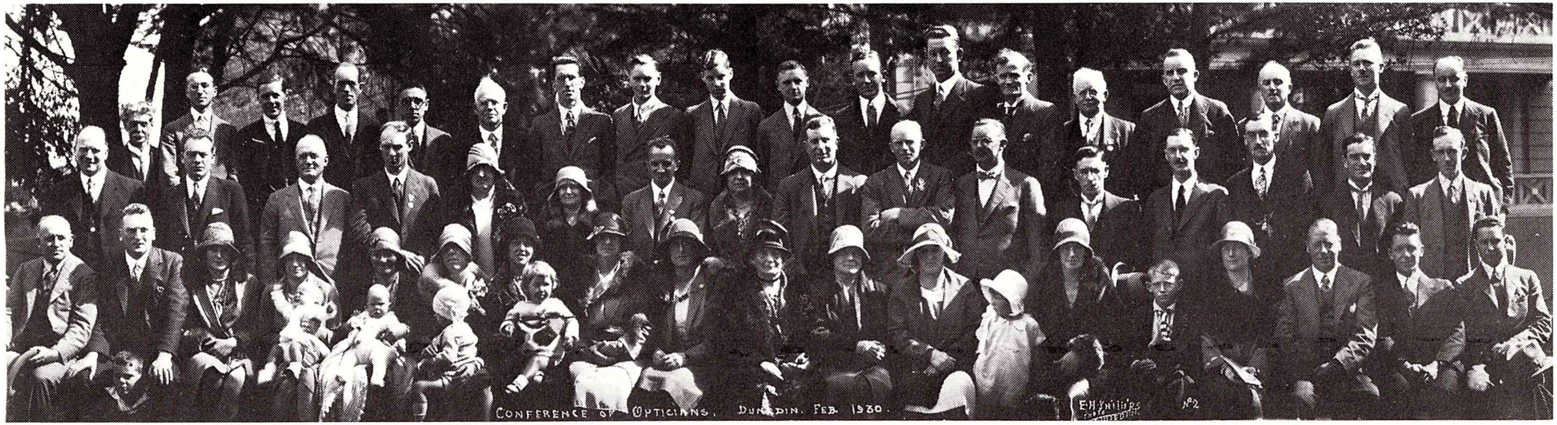
The Conferences, located on a rotating provincial basis, were held annually in the month of February and were highlighted by the thoughtful and appropriate presidential addresses. They were always accompanied by lectures and demonstrations. Sometimes the latter aspect was considerable and evoked much interest, resulting over this period, aided by the influx of newly qualified members, in the steady technical improvement in consulting room procedure.

The presidential addresses reflect some of the worries, problems and endeavours of the time. The first in 1930 enunciated three objectives: firstly, raising the standard of refraction work, secondly, raising the standard in attitude to fellow opticians, and thirdly, raising the standard of attitude to the public. A quote from 1932 goes thus, "the year 1931 has been a hard one for all people, and our members have not been exempt. I would like here, however, to remark on the fine attitude of opticians to their staffs when we consider how few registered opticians and mechanics are out of work. It seems to me that the principals of firms have shown a great loyalty to their staffs and vice-versa. I say to you, stick to a fair price and give more for that price; more training, better equipment and organisation and higher trained staffs. The question is one of outlook. If it is through the blue glass of pessimism that gives nothing but dull despair, then everything is drab and dismal, doleful and disappointing, or should we use the rose-tinted glass of the irrepressible optimist to whom everything will be alright if he wishes it so, no matter how facts contradict his view. I urge you to face facts clearly as individuals, looking through glass free from unnatural colour, and with all distortions removed so as to obtain a proper perspective now and for the future." Again in 1933, "I urge you to maintain and improve your work standard and not to fall into the temptation of reducing prices to get business at any price. Why is it that we think the other fellow is doing all the business? I have no doubt he is thinking the same of you. What has happened is that we are doing more replacement and repair work and less new work and once the depression lifts, we will return to the old volume of business. I would like to see more members intent on improving their equipment and the lay-out of their rooms and keeping alive to modern changes. Let us be keen to attend the Annual Conference, benefiting from the camaraderie and especially from the lectures and educational sessions and the Institute in turn will gain from your presence and opinions." Mr Sargent in 1934 stressed the need for local co-operation e.g. in cases of sickness, the sharing of Christmas holidays and the building of a real ethical spirit in the local area. In 1935, the president remarked on the amendment to the Opticians Act which gave the Board power to draw up regulations on advertising and the elimination thereby of those misleading and flamboyant advertisements which caused so much friction and ill-will between individuals and detracted from the profession generally. The good advertising was best done by broadcasting, lectures and newspaper articles of an educational value. During November 1934 he and Mr Gilberd attended the Centenary Conference in Melbourne and witnessed there all manner of advertising and practice especially the distortions of radio advertising. Three deaths occurred in the following year and Mr Sargent paid tribute to Mr Webster of Auckland as an esteemed member of the northern fraternity, to Mr Pank of Adelaide who died on a visit to this country and whose influence in South Australia was so profound and to one of the younger members, Mr Ralph Wood of Palmerston North who was involved in a tragic misadventure in the Tararua Ranges early in 1936. He was the son of Mr J. R. Wood; he had recently returned from study abroad and he seemed destined to take a big part in Institute affairs.

The president in 1936 also said that some of the younger members desired more activity and movement but he cautioned a little patience; to quote, "we are a long way from the position where we can leave the shop stage and I believe that when we do reach that stage, we will have reached a stage unassailable as long as due care is given to educating



CONFERENCE IN DUNEDIN CIRCA 1925
Fourth Row: T. J. Quinn, B. Falck, T. L. Cocks, P. G. Dick, P. H. O'Donnell
Third Row: W. McKinney, H. M. Bennett, W. V. Sturmer, H. H. Coote
Second Row: J. D. Gilmore, H. K. Neill, E. A. Sargent, A. B. Yeoman, T. G. Young
Front Row: S. F. McLean, ---, H. S. Gilberd, W. Dawson, F. Curtis, A. Spear


CONFERENCE OF OPTICIANS. DUNEDIN. FEB. 1930.
E.H. Phillips
No2

1930 CONFERENCE—DUNEDIN
Back Row: ? Reid, John Ingram, M. de Lacey, N. Stouppe, F. G. Hayes-Towns, W. Young, G. Chance, R. Watson, H. Taylor, P. N. Dick, N. Bailey, G. E. Read Jnr, H. Outram, H. Spear, B. Falck, E. Falck, T. Cocks, A. Yeoman
Middle Row: H. Neill, H. Fairmaid, B. Irvine, R. Brooke-Taylor, Mrs R. Brooke-Taylor, Mrs H. S. Gilberd, E. A. Sargent, Mrs E. A. Sargent, H. S. Gilberd, T. G. Young, T. Cocks, W. V. Sturmer, A. H. Reid, R. A. Noedl, H. Boock, H. White
Front Row: J. D. Gilmore, G. K. Neill, Mrs F. Sturmer, Mrs A. R. Watson, Mrs A. H. Fairmaid, Mrs G. K. Neill, Mrs M. de Lacey, Mrs H. Outram, Mrs H. Neill, ----, ----, Mrs B. M. Irvine, Mrs H. Boock, Master H. Young, Mrs J. Armstrong, W. Watson, N. Wright, T. D. Peacock
Children: Keith Neill, David Watson, Hunter Fairmaid, Brian Neill, Philip de Lacey

the public mind to the gradual evolution. We will have reached a profession allied to medicine but at the same time created, or recreated, the business of the dispensing optician, the very point we started from so many years ago." The subject of illumination of offices and factories was also traversed with the findings of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board quoted, in which was emphasised the attainment of true visual efficiency under good illumination and with a satisfactory "condition" of the workers' eyes.

The following year saw the Conference graced with the presence of Mr W. G. Kett and also Mr E. W. Crozier of Queensland. They participated fully in the deliberations, and Mr Kett's presence was especially valuable in educational aspects. This 1937 year with the change in Government philosophy saw the first mention of the National Health Insurance Scheme, some preliminary stages of which were to commence on 1 April 1937. Under this scheme it was proposed to include optical benefits. Mr Sargent said, "Under the additional benefits are medical, dental, nursing, optical and other services. The scheme in its conception is a good one and quite ideal, but whether it can be adopted in its entirety, one cannot predict at the present time. We do not know its scope and extent, to how many it will apply or its method of application. As your Executive, we have offered the assistance of the Institute, but we also have the rights of our members to safeguard and you may rest assured that these will be foremost. We have indicated that we are willing and anxious to assist the new Government."

The president also traversed the subject of the increasing sales of cheap goggles and whilst everyone knew the saying "cheap and nasty" this situation could be described as "cheap and harmful". He suggested that as registered opticians, members should cease offering the public any lenses of the cheap moulded variety. "Cheapness surely is not the dominant factor in supplying tinted lenses to the public and the distortions and imperfections in moulded lenses undoubtedly do create an eye strain factor." Mr Sargent's last presidential address was in Dunedin in 1938 and he paid a full tribute to Mr F. G. Hayes-Towns (whose activities and influence will be traversed later) who in indifferent health had returned to England. During the year the executive had organised and embarked on the periodic production, generally quarterly, of a news-sheet to be known as the 'Institute News' under Mr G. E. Cox's editorship. It was hoped this production would provide more intimate contact and news amongst members. The president also dwelt on the increasing membership of younger men reminding them that they owed so much to the Institute in providing the legislation, examinations and status that they enjoyed. The standard in New Zealand had been eulogised by Mr Kett and compared very favourably with that in Australia. The younger men had taken advantage of the better training and opportunities in sitting the State Examinations and in their hands must lie the future of the Institute.

Some, however, did not seem to realise their debt to the Institute and a strong appeal was made for their increased interest and co-operation. Once more the necessity of all members to observe the Code of Ethics was stressed. It was designed for the good of members and also the public.

The Wellington Conference of 1939 was chaired by Mr R. Brooke-Taylor and the following are some quotes from his address. "One question is that of publicity and a decision is required as regards future activity. An aspect under this heading is that of educating the public concerning the true position in the use of sun glasses. There is no doubt that the increasing use of inferior sun glasses merits serious attention; the flaws and imperfections in these lenses giving rise to more strain and discomfort than the relief afforded by their glare prevention. It should be considered whether we ask the Government to exercise some control over the quality of all sun glasses imported. The matter of Import Restriction is, of course, causing us concern. The broad principles of this measure are outside the scope of this Conference but there is the suggestion that some curtailment of foreign optical wares to the advantage of Great Britain might well be considered. Our Institute has held official membership of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science since 1936, and at the recent Canberra Congress, whilst we had no representative present, several papers from New Zealand were read and well received. These are times of great change, political, economic and social. The accepted conditions of social and individual service are being discarded and new methods are taking their place. There is the possibility that the service of optometry will be involved in the Labour Government's plans. Provided the quality of service and the standard of remuneration are maintained, the more readily the public can avail itself of the benefits of optometrical science the better for all concerned. The Government has set itself no easy task; that is obvious from the major health services, and difficulties may well postpone the inauguration of the scheme for some time. Thus it may well be some considerable time before the National Health Scheme embraces our profession. Meantime we must consolidate our position with the general public. Our standard of instrumentation is equal to, perhaps even better than, any other country in the world and possibly our own modesty prevents the public realising this. With this high standard of instrumentation, let us see that our standard of service is equally high. The standard of examinations bears no heavy criticism and the standard of material offering is quite satisfactory so that the newcomers into the profession cause no real concern. But what of the others? The old-timers. I am afraid too many of us get deeper and deeper into the rut of conservatism and self-satisfaction and so we are lowering the overall average. Too many of us regard the correction of the manifest monocular error as the one and all of optometry. The last ten years has been a period of evolution in technique; the trial frame being only a supplement to the refractor; the old rule of thumb methods being ousted by accurate scientific investigation and more reliance being placed on objective findings and their interpretation."

The next Conference in 1940 was starting to address itself to the formidable tasks of war and so marked a new epoch in the Institute's history.

During the 1930s, the treasurership was handled continuously by Mr H. S. Gilberd with, from 1932, the entrance fee set at two guineas, and the annual subscription at one pound fifteen shillings reducible by five shillings if paid before 31 March. The chief items of expenditure were, at this time, printing and stationery, the Annual Dinner held at Conference time, legal fees usually relating to legislation or advertising, library expenses for books, general Conference expenses etc. In 1934 for example, the total expenses were £131.19.3 and a cash balance of £125 plus some items of equipment. The years following had much of a set pattern with most years showing a small surplus as the increase in membership balanced out the increased expenses. A summarised survey of the financial affairs for the final year of this period (1940) is worthy of record.

The Income consisted of subscriptions £205.15.0, Entrance Fees £12.12.0, Advertisements in the "News" £6.18.0, Interest P.O.S.B. £8.8.7, Donation £1.1.0, whilst the Expenditure was Essay Prizes £6.6.0, Audit and Bank £2.2.0, Printing etc. £21.13.3, Secretary's Salary £35.0.0, Conference Reports £37.8.1, Postages £14.2.6, Printing "News" £17.1.6, Executive Travelling £9.10.0, Legal Expenses £5.5.0, Publicity, Typing £5.0.0, Depreciation £10.17.6, Conference Expenses £61.13.3 and sundries. A deficit of £3.13.9. Accumulated Funds were £332.4.10 and assets chiefly Library £58.16.0.

At this period, most optical premises had a collection box on the counter for voluntary donations to the Blind Institute. The public were encouraged to make small contributions when some free service had been rendered by the optician. In some areas, where the Blind Institute had an active representative, the boxes were cleared occasionally by this person, but mostly the Institute throughout the period collected monies into one amount from various members. For instance in 1933, the Institute forwarded £26.6.11; another instance shows £62.13.11 in 1936 and the figure in 1938 had increased to over £90. At various stages the Blind Institute Executive expressed its appreciation for this interest and help.

The Institute at its 1933 Conference amended its Rules to permit a new Rule 6 (b) to be inserted. "All members of the Institute shall be entitled to use as an affix the letters 'F.I.O.N.Z.' or the words 'Fellow of the Institute of Opticians of N.Z. (Inc.)', no other letters to be used to signify connection of any kind with the Institute; none of the privileges of the Institute shall be used in an unethical manner."

The establishment of a system of tutoring exercised the mind of the Institute from its formation, as in 1930 it was agreed to form a committee of members in each centre to co-operate with the executive and the official instructor (Mr W. E. Suckling) in formulating an educational scheme. Also Mr F. G. Hayes-Towns was instructed to submit a scheme on the lines he had verbally outlined. The following year saw the approval of a scheme to be operational in Wellington for final year students. It was to extend for four weeks prior to the November examinations. The course started that same year in a rented room in the D.I.C. Buildings. The instructors were Messrs F. Hayes-Towns, E. Suckling and R. Brooke-Taylor. There were some difficulties over equipment and patients initially. Ingenuity was the key-note. Students could use the room during the day whilst the main tutored sessions were in the evenings followed by lengthy discussions afterwards. Trial frame usage was the normal procedure and much subjective and objective work could be done with "dummy lenses", each student using another student as the patient. All students were expected to be conversant with theory and to have had practice during the year. This was intended primarily to be a finishing school. Alas, basics were quite often necessary too. In later years a little work was done on specialised equipment e.g. keratometers, synoptoscopes etc., at private rooms in Wellington. So a routine of examination was gradually developed eliminating the wide variation of procedures which had for years, proved a matter of continual criticism by the examiners. The first year saw three of the four candidates from the course pass the Section D Examination. This course and system became known as the Wellington Clinic and the second year successful candidates were Messrs P. Dick, R. Dickson and C. Dunlop (five entries). Gradually the Wellington opticians collected together a list of pathology patients as well as suitable subjective patients and the payment of a small attendance amount mostly ensured a reasonable flow of patients.

It was during 1934 that Mrs Lois Suckling replaced her husband, who was in failing health, on the Clinic staff. Both Mr and Mrs Suckling practised in upstairs rooms in the D.I.C. Building, and their proximity to the clinic room ensured a measure of contact or supervision during the "free" daytime hours. Dr J. H. Beaumont, an ophthalmologist practising in Upper Willis Street, was available in 1936 for some tuition in pathology. His patients included glaucoma cases and with a mydriatic some unusual fundus conditions could be more readily observed. Dr Beaumont continued his association for some years until his departure from Wellington. Some difficulties became apparent after the initial years and Mr R. Brooke-Taylor commented on the varying viewpoints of different examiners and the difficulty in reconciling the Clinic procedures to accommodate and satisfy the changing examiners and their attitudes. A sub-committee reviewed this whole matter assisted by Mr W. G. Kett who was present at the 1937 Conference, and some improvement was made. In that particular year four out of ten candidates passed, and the following year saw six candidates successful. Mr Hayes-Towns' departure caused a vacancy in the Clinic staff and an old student of the Clinic, Mr E. R. Boyd, proved to be an excellent replacement. In addition, Dr Beaumont increased his contribution to eight lectures on pathology and a number of clinical demonstrations. A new development, prompted by the continuing experience of candidates lacking basic training, occurred in 1938 whereby a one week's course was held in May with the emphasis directed to more basic underlying principles and procedures. Four students attended and their performance in the November Clinic amply demonstrated the value of this preliminary week's tuition. The May session thus became a part of the programme especially for new candidates. The Clinic had become in those years, although not officially, a part of the Institute structure and it was difficult to visualise how the Section D Examination system could have functioned without the yearly dedication and sacrifice of the devoted small group of honorary instructors. Their service to future optometry was tremendous.

From the undoubted success of the Wellington Clinic, it may be appropriate to survey briefly the examination conducted by the Opticians Board throughout this period. Surveillance and scrutiny was ever under the watchful eye of Mr H. S. Gilberd as Director of Examinations and Section A was continued by Mr W. E. Suckling as he had done for some years in 1930. An endeavour was made by the Board based on the examiners' reports to convey to any unsuccessful candidate some idea of his principal weaknesses. The entries in 1933 were worthy of note in that the total for the four sections totalled 40 (a very few sat two sections), whilst the next year the total was 34. It was in this period that dissatisfaction was expressed with the standard of Section B and it was resolved to issue fresh copies of the Booklet of Standards to each member. This was followed in 1935 with a detailed Systems of Frame Measurements compiled by Mr R. Brooke-Taylor who worked in conformity with the British Optical Standards Committee Booklet. Again in 1935 there were 38 candidates, of whom 14 were in Section D (five were successful). The high figures placed much strain on the director and the examiners. The workshop area of Messrs Morrison and Gilberd Ltd was used for Section B and their several refracting rooms, despite the pressure of numbers, were ideal for Section D. Around this time too, it became apparent that the candidates nearly all had the prescribed matriculation standard whereas in earlier years many had graduated from mechanic to optician with lesser educational backgrounds. Any of the examinations during those years were carried out in Section B by two men with much practical ability viz. Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor and W. T. Wilson whose objective was to produce New Zealand opticians fully conversant with frame and lens fitting of a high mechanical level; whilst Section D was conducted by Dr G. W. Harty and Messrs E. A. Sargent, T. G. Young and H. C. Collett. Mr W. G. Kett continued his labours in Sections A and C. The Wellington Clinic brought students together in a bond of enduring friendships and also introduced many from other parts to the Wellington scene and its personalities. It was really a miniature university campus even to the aspect of "Town and Gown". Students schemed, they argued, they even drank a little and the great topic was "The Future". Many were on graduation returning to pre-arranged situations, but there was an ambitious minority who wanted to conquer further afield. Great Britain was the mecca with the magic of the Northampton Polytechnic, the Refraction Hospital, the British Optical Association, and the Company of Spectacle Makers well secreted in Apothecaries Hall, and all the wonders of London. From earliest days there had been the occasional migration but perhaps Messrs H. C. Collet, F. G. Hayes-Towns and G. E. Cox set the pattern around 1930 and the merest rivelet grew to a small stream. It seemed that the New Zealand Diploma Examination was on parity with the Fellowship Examination of the British Optical Association and the initiative of Mr H. Atkinson resulted in the Institute asking for permission for New Zealand graduates to proceed to the Honours examination forthwith. Mr H. Atkinson's personal diplomacy was successful in exempting N.Z. graduates from the normal Fellowship examination. The success of the band of young New Zealanders in the remaining pre-war years amply demonstrated the soundness of their home education and their relationship with the British optometric leaders and teachers, Giles, Gibson, Lewis, Rosen, Sasieni, Rossini, Freeman, Swann, Dupont, Mitchell, etc., has been of enduring benefit; also their London "mother", Mrs M. Crawley.

No educational body has been of real merit without a research accompaniment and to some extent the Institute was activated by its graduates who had been overseas, but the mighty inspiration throughout was Mr F. G. Hayes-Towns. From his arrival in New Zealand in 1928 he was the motivator. There were no centralised resources, nor any specific funds available, nor any local groupings of research enthusiasts, but as early as 1930 a Research Committee of Messrs T. D. Peacock, T. G. Young, G. K. Neill, R. Lonsdale and F. Hayes-Towns was constituted. It would appear that the chief problem attacked initially was a comparison of near-phoria tests, but data was difficult to obtain although some was published in 1931. Continued efforts were made in succeeding years with some limited conclusions in 1934.

Some attention was also given to the prescribing of prisms and the dominant eye from which flowed an interest in the relationship of hand and eye dominance. Research numbers were insufficient, the question impinged into the field of psychology and behaviour, methods and their relative value in determining dominance were open to criticism and whilst some useful statistical information was gathered, no conclusions were possible except the age-old one of prescribing the whole or major portion of the prism over the non-dominant eye. Another problem investigated was the hereditary nature of structural ametropia but lack of sufficiently complete records prevented much progress or the consideration of Mendelian inheritance. To sum up, the field of research lacked sufficient personnel motivated with the enthusiasm necessary and the time available, and it fell much into abeyance after Mr Hayes-Towns' departure. However during all these years some healthy fillip had been given by notable lectures and original work by Mr H. C. Collett entitled "Cataract—its arrest and cure" 1933; "Modern Refraction" 1936; "Vertex Refractionometers" 1937. These were all penetrating and pertinent in the research or educational field.

Can the story of these years now branch into a field that had its fun? It was somewhat whimsical, it was topical, it could not be done now, it was educational, it was possibly remunerative and it all revolved around two men, viz. Messrs F. G. Hayes-Towns and E. A. Sargent. One provided the thrust and the other the parry. It was a great pairing. This was all through radio, the new plaything in most homes, and it was almost radio advertising—at the least it told the story of eyes, their effects and defects and very, very gently about optometry. It all started in 1931 with some preliminary discussions with the Broadcasting officials particularly 2YA. A small number of dialogue talks were broadcast. They were evidently greatly appreciated by the listening public and also by the studio officials, so much so that a request was received to extend the series from six to ten talks. Naturally some surprise and even criticism was expressed at their form and content but the talks were very carefully constructed and in consultation with the 2YA officials. The latter folk knew what kind of talks were listened to and what were "turned off" by the listeners. These people regarded them as interesting and instructive and were willing to continue the sessions when new material was prepared. The guiding feature was essentially interest value and anything spiced with technicalities was not worth hearing. The Otago Association held discussions with 4YA and were hopeful of receiving favourable treatment in the coming months. The following year in Wellington, in October and November, a similar series were broadcast, this time on - (1) Children's Eyesight; (2) Eyes in Sport; (3) Eyestrain in Industry and Commerce and (4) Eyestrain and its Prevention. Once again public reaction was favourable and 2YA was willing to promote a further series. This was done. Meantime endeavours had been made in each of the other centres to initiate something similar, and it was even mooted that a gramophone record be made for distribution. The following year Auckland reported that all arrangements had been made and they were awaiting dates from the Broadcasting Board. At the 1935 Conference all delegates assembled at Messrs Morrison and Gilberd's premises to hear a live broadcast over 2YA which had been specially arranged for the Conference. For ten minutes the two speakers tossed and parried the factors confronting the average layman on his introduction to wearing glasses; all this in simple terms. There was the element of novelty and freshness that commended the "item". Resulting from this broadcast, renewed efforts were made in other centres and meanwhile the 2YA talks continued whilst maintaining an impartial, even disinterested, attitude to glasses and opticians. Rarely was the word "optician" mentioned and any admonition might equally well refer to oculist as to optician. Some of the later subjects discussed were—"The Inevitability of Presbyopia", "Ametropia in Well-known Historical Personages", "The Importance of Illumination in House and Office", "Ocular Hygiene and Remedies". The activity with 2YA continued in 1936 but the Auckland Association had had no acceptance of their script from the Broadcasting Board. 1938 saw the extinction of the broadcasting light; one radio star had gone. It was not to appear again. Some radio playlets for the "Better Light—Better Sight" campaign were broadcast together with a series from the Lighting Service Bureau. The emphasis switched somewhat to publicity by means of articles and periodicals, report of meetings and general education work. Some material of the "Better Vision Institute" of America was considered but other events were to overtake much more development.

Despite the overall beneficial effects of the 1928 Opticians Act, it was not long before the Institute could see imperfections and weaknesses such as occur with most legislation. There was and always has been a good liaison between the Board and the Institute and by 1933 the Institute was ready to suggest amendments to the Act. Firstly, to provide safeguards for the interests of members and also the public generally against practices that did not conform to the high standard desired by the Institute; secondly, to increase the period of training from three to four years; and thirdly that all premises which engaged refractionists should have the refractionist's name publicly displayed. On presenting these requirements to the Board, the Crown Law Office was consulted and their advice was that the alterations conflicted with the Companies Act. A deputation however presented the case to the Minister who was not impressed with their arguments and furthermore he considered alterations to the Companies Act would be difficult and far reaching. The Minister was averse to any action unless a definite need could be proved and some of his officials favoured the observance of a high code of ethics in preference to compulsion via the law. In addition, it was contended that of the 226 practising registered opticians, the Institute represented only 98. Although it had been stressed that these 98 members performed about 95% of all the optical work done, it was still argued that all registered opticians should be consulted before any amendments or regulations were passed. Some sympathetic consideration however appeared to be possible on advertising matters and this culminated in the Opticians Amendment

Act (1934) giving the Board, as a main feature, authority to control advertising. The Board subsequently asked the Institute for its proposals, and a lengthy list of recommendations was approved in 1935. The awaiting of legislative action was a frustrating, tiresome exercise and the deputation to the Minister of Health, Hon. P. Fraser, in 1938 was informed that the amending Act covering the definition of the practice of an optician and the power for the Board to more effectively control advertising only required a suitable Parliamentary opportunity. This opportunity was difficult to come by as even with more than one request for action, the Minister replied that more pressing business took precedence and so nothing eventuated before the war. Likewise the troublesome problem of unregistered itinerant opticians and the need for the control of the dispensing of ophthalmic prescriptions also discussed at the Ministerial level went unresolved. Overall the advertising situation was not too bad as the Institute and the Board with their admonitions frequently achieved the desired improvement. It was at this time that the seven Dunedin establishments agreed to each publish a one inch, name only advertisement. These were grouped together under the heading "Consulting Opticians" and position in the list alternated. Wellington in 1939 agreed to voluntarily restrict advertising to a set of minimal standards including no radio advertising, and so the series of sympathy promises and procrastination officially expressed swallowed up each year.

A technical library was inherited from the Institute of Optometrists and, although in need of updating, it was carefully housed and newly catalogued by Mr T. D. Peacock. It was shifted in 1931 to Dunedin under the care of Mr A. H. Fairmaid and records tell of the proposed purchase of "The Ocular Muscles", by L. A. Swann, which represented a new concept in visual functioning. As the desire at this period was for the library to circulate among the local Associations it was despatched to Christchurch under the management of Mr N. Stouppe. It consisted of 170 works, many of which were out of date and should have been discarded. With Institute finances barely balancing, it had not been the Executive's desire to spend money on books, but by about 1934 and spurred on somewhat by Mr H. Collett's enthusiasm, a sub-committee obtained approval of £8.0.0. for purchases with the possibility of a further £4.0.0. grant. The usage varied from year to year and the 1935 Conference decided to have it removed to Wellington and for it to be permanently housed there. Hopes were expressed that a room could be found for its permanent domicile. Mr G. E. Cox then became librarian and with some new purchases the number of books grew to 194. Borrowings for the year were 35 but it was hoped the publication of a new catalogue, classified and indexed, might stimulate more interest. An expenditure of £10.15.11. on eight books was incurred and in the next year borrowings soared to 65. The literature was mostly British in origin; names like Zouthout, Fincham, Dobson, Stearman, Swaine, Cantonnet, Woolf, Obrig, Jabara, Emsley were prominent.

During 1937 and 1938 the borrowings increased still further to 82 and 85 books and Traquair's work appeared, although the prize acquisition was a copy of Giles "Orthoptics" opening a new era in optometric theory and practice. Some New Zealand students in London in these times had an undoubted influence on this publication and its material. The following year produced eight new books with such familiar names as Ida Mann, Grant, Duke-Elder, Gifford Swann (a new book) and Wright. The overseas journals were also received; the American Journal of Optometry, the Dioptric News and the South African Optometrist whilst the Commonwealth Optometrist had been received by members individually for some years. It should be recognised that the local Associations in some cases supported libraries of their own and in at least two cases made donations to the general library for purchases.

The endeavours to lift the practice standards of members had also the yearly stimulus of the McKinney Cup. It produced friendly rivalries, challenges between local Associations were made, boasts were sometimes fulfilled but always the holding Association was proud of itself. Initially the yearly competition was divided into a Technical and a Non-technical section later to be designated as Registered section and Unregistered section. Otago in 1930 was first with 15 entries (285 points), Auckland second with seven entries (150 points) and Wellington third with six entries (105 points). Mr W. G. Kett fulfilled yet another task in being the judge and for his labours was permitted to publish any essay in the "Commonwealth Optometrist". Monetary rewards were granted to the first two or three place-getters in each section ranging from three guineas downwards. The funds for prizes were each year solicited on an individual basis and recognition must be accorded to the continuing generosity of the two chief wholesale houses.

Some tabulation is possible of the yearly results and it may be noted they vary considerably in no small measure due to the entreaties, circulars and even threats of the local Association chairmen and secretaries.

	Auckland	Wellington	Canterbury	Otago	Hawkes Bay-Manawatu
1930	150 (7 entries)	105 (6 entries)	—	285 (15 entries)	
1931	15 (1 entry)	210 (14 entries)	195 (13 entries)	105 (7 entries)	
1932	225 (15 entries)	285 (19 entries)	130 (3 entries)	105 (5 entries)	
1933	-	601 (8 entries)	70 (1 entry)	158 (2 entries)	
1934	All entries (11) lost in transit.				
1935	135	80	15	-	
1936	-	135	-	85	
1937	-	80 (3 entries)	-	-	30 (1 entry)
1938	-(Waikato 15)	70	135	30	85
1939	-(Waikato 85)	40	125	15	
1940	-	270 (12 entries)	115 (5 entries)	-	

It is readily apparent how irregular and spasmodic were the provincial efforts and at several Conferences, despite the benefit accruing from the competition, discussion occurred on methods of improvement in both quantity and quality. Emphasis continually refocussed on this competition as it was felt to be a major post-graduate educative programme. A major review of the rules governing both the individual Essay and the McKinney Cup was undertaken at the 1938 Conference whereby it was resolved that the two separate sections be retained and the allocation of points for the cup be slightly amended as follows:-

15 points for each entry
40 points for first prize in each section
25 points for second prize in each section

In addition to the stimulation afforded by this competition opportunity was taken to use some of the submitted papers for A.N.Z.A.A.S. meetings and this was particularly so at the 1937 Canberra meeting when seven New Zealand papers were read.

During 1934, on the proposal of Mr S. F. McLean, the Executive sponsored a Mechanical Competition. It was designed to attract entries of any mechanical or other device which could be useful in practical work. The Competition was continued yearly; it attracted small entries although novelty and ingenuity were frequently apparent. Sometimes the entries were circulated around the various centres.

The increasing use of gold-filled frames from the mid-thirties inevitably later raised the question of their quality. Strong doubts were cast on some overseas manufacturers. A questionnaire was sent to the wholesale houses who showed willing co-operation. The investigation had complications as the gold content might be constant throughout or might be greater in "exposed parts". Members were urged to use only quality frames of at least 1/10th 10 ct. aggregate gold content—known in manufacturing circles as 40/1000 fine. The vigilance and investigations of the Technical Sub-committee ensured the maintenance of a suitably high quality and the problem disappeared.

Jury service is a public duty and Institute members were appreciative of that fact, but exemption from service was desirable alongside the exemptions of other callings. An amendment of the Juries Act would have been required and the advice was rendered to apply for exemption when next the schedule of exemptions was being revised. Time proved that the exemption list was a static list and while opticians were liable for service, no hardships were reported as exemption had been obtained in each individual case if required. Even today the situation has not changed.

The 1938 Conference considered the employment of opticians in hospitals as it was reported that ophthalmic departments were overworked especially in the refraction branch. It was decided to make enquiries to ascertain the attitude to optometry assisting. The following year Mr R. Brooke-Taylor reported on his investigations. He found that the Health Department and particularly its hospital division was sympathetic and agreed that it would be an excellent thing for the hospitals. He also sounded out members of the Wellington Hospital Board who were inclined to view the proposal favourably. However the final decision would rest with the medical staff especially the ophthalmologists. In discussion with the latter, a definite rebuff was encountered although it was tempered with a friendly spirit and the decision nicely put. It was nevertheless a definite refusal to admit opticians to hospital work. The time was not ripe.

With the advent of a new Government from December 1936 it was not surprising that the working man and compulsory unionism would bite deeply into political thinking and in due course a movement in Auckland occurred to form a Union of Mechanics etc. The originators of this project adopted a very extravagant attitude threatening to involve all New Zealand optical employees in one large trade union. Both employers and employees in Wellington decided to take local action and an amicable agreement on conditions and wages resulted in an industrial award for the entire Wellington District. Under the initiative of the Vice-President, Christchurch modelled their award on the Wellington one and Dunedin followed later. The Auckland situation could not be resolved by amicable agreement and the employees insisted on taking the case to the Arbitrations Court which ultimately determined the issue. Within a year or so the Auckland Union was proposing an apprentices' scheme at a Technical College but the other unions were content to renew the existing conditions although it was recognised that wages must be reviewed within a reasonable period. By 1939 there was pressure to include employed refractionists in the award but the Arbitration Court rejected this proposal and determined a new award for Auckland much on the terms of the Wellington award and operable for two years. These awards were confined to mechanics, learners and attendants. The Otago award lapsed through lack of members.

Similarly the Government's philosophy towards Social Welfare or National Health Insurance represented a reawakening of the Seddonian era on a much more active scale and the scheme was a major legislative endeavour for the 1937 session of Parliament. A Commission had been appointed to hear evidence from the many interested parties all of whom were trying hastily to rationalise their viewpoints. The Government was determined to make this scheme materialise and the Executive urged all members to recognise this point. Twelve different benefits were listed and "Ophthalmic treatment and optical appliances", whilst not at the top of the list was not at the bottom either. Much later it was discovered that this item was thought to be about tenth. Much uncertainty prevailed as to whether any agreed benefit would cover a purely utility article and the freedom or otherwise of the patient to contract into a better quality article. The fee for examination was also in debate but the position was strengthened in that the Institute had urged no free examinations for many years and also that the English examination fee was set at five shillings. Many machinery matters were unclear also and much speculation existed in all professional bodies affected. The Commission asked for some oral evidence in March 1937 apparently to ascertain the cost of an optical benefit. The deputation was requested to obtain figures of cost and persons involved per annum.

Using Wellington and Hawke's Bay as enquiry areas, it was determined that the probable national cost on services and glasses would be about £200,000. Figures were also obtained for the patient numbers in each decade of age. With the normal increases and the increased number of people requesting eye services in the envisaged scheme it was estimated that an annual expenditure of £400,000 might be reached at an early date. The Institute would recommend the adoption of the current I.O.N.Z. list of charges for frames and lenses as well as the fairly uniform prevailing fee of five shillings. The 1938 Conference passed a motion that the fee be seven shillings and sixpence minimum. However, the Government was not able to move nearly as fast as many expected and even in early 1939 preliminary discussions were still occurring on the medical benefits, a top priority. The Executive was ready and willing to discuss procedures and details when the Government asked, but some of the urgent time factor had passed. By 1940 with the advent of war there had been no approach on Health Insurance from the Department of Health and the opinion was widely held that the scheme would be set aside for later days. The National Health and Social Security schemes were at this time collecting one shilling in the pound on all wages as a funding procedure. This later rose another sixpence but the course of events precluded any implementation of supplementary benefits including optical benefits.

Arising from this awareness of the apparent imminence (more apparent than real) of the introduction of National Health Insurance Optical Benefits, a comprehensive report on costs and charges was presented to the 1937 Conference. It was obvious that all Institute members should have some clarity of mind on this topic, and that a reasonably uniform approach was necessary throughout the country.

A questionnaire was issued to a limited number of members to obtain an overall summary. The average time computed covering examination, job checking, fitting, adjustments and minor subsequent services was determined at one hour forty minutes. Taking a 44 hour week, of which 33 hours may be considered actual, the number of patients would be around 980 annually. The average revenue derived from each transaction was considered at thirty-five shillings.

The matter of salary, considering the outlook of the current Labour Government was fixed at £450 p.a. plus 10% on an average capital of £600. In such a business it was considered that a male attendant should receive £208 p.a. Running out a simple profit and loss account, it was computed that the cost of work was 27-36% of the total turnover. The next step was the calculation of the value of the consultant and professional services. Assuming that the optician's time be reasonably occupied in his calling, the value of services worked out at twelve shillings and sixpence per consultation.

Reverting to the percentage cost of 27-36% or 9/6 in the production of a thirty-five shillings transaction, together with the examination fee of twelve shillings and sixpence, there remained a thirteen shillings profit, this later representing 137% on the costs. As there was a considerable variation in fees charged and in view of the fact that in many cases a separate fee was not shown, it was decided that seven shillings and sixpence be made a basic fee included in lens costs and initially the remaining five shillings be shown as an examination fee. In other words the full liability would be made up of the cost of production plus 137%, plus seven shillings and sixpence basic charge plus five shillings examination fee. This system had many weaknesses but it was strenuously recommended as a part process in rationalising the charges system and as some workable basis for presentation to the Health Commission if necessary. In July 1938 after much investigation of prevailing conditions and opinions throughout the country, a final list of charges was sent to all members and it became known as the yellow list. It was realised that each Institute member would have variations from this list but it was hoped that each month would bring some degree of greater uniformity. Thus all parts of New Zealand would acquire reasonable equity of charges and one voice could be presented to the Health Commission. A minor point of dispute dragged on for some time i.e. whether second division torics should be thirty or thirty-five shillings, thus showing a differential of either five or ten shillings over first division. The five shilling differential finally won.

Despite the increases of costs around 1939-40 when lenses had increased perhaps 20% on average and gold-filled frames an average of possibly 40% and imitation shell and also nickel frames from 20% to 30%, it was generally agreed that the present formula should continue, otherwise complications were almost inevitable with the existing Price Tribunal. The increased costs were built into the scheme although increased overheads were not.

Now, "In Optometry as I See It" Mr H. Atkinson highlighted a new somewhat radical approach to fees and costs and his rationale was to reverberate in optometric halls for years; later reinforced by an accountancy approach to the problem from his brother Mr J. Atkinson. In summarised form the submissions were that service should be the dominant factor and prevailing socialist trends supported this. He contended that optometry charges should be: Examination fee, one guinea; Servicing fee, one guinea; Plus net cost of materials. Then the whole area would be in true perspective and costs of materials would automatically adjust themselves. In Mr Atkinson's peroration were some pregnant words, "Ladies and gentlemen, you know your job; you can do your job; why not do it?" More was to appear and come to fruition on this issue in the years ahead.

At Dunedin in 1934 a comprehensive lens display was exhibited by most of the larger manufacturers from throughout the world. Much credit must go to Messrs G. K. Neill and T. G. Young for arranging this exhibition at the Medical School which illustrated to the attendance of nearly 100 members that flat and toric lenses were now only on the lowest rung of the ladder in precision lens manufacture. Recent years had produced multi-base and best form single vision lenses, greater accuracy in the determination of back vertex refraction, lower weights in high plus and minus lenses, the production of bifocal lenses with little or no achromatic disturbance in the reading position, variations in size and positioning of bifocal segments, the production of trifocal and also splinterless lenses. Pitch polished lenses were also demonstrated and possibly for the first time in N.Z., sample glass contact lenses were exhibited. This display also marked the introduction of Cruxite lenses. Solid bifocal lenses by Shuron Optical were illustrated through their manufacturing process and Mr G. Sevicke Jones of Christchurch exhibited the technique used in shaping and grinding these lenses and also solid lenticulars of any power on any base curve. No other short period had shown the same scope in technical advancement and mechanical ingenuity and New Zealand opticians were not slow to utilise the many benefits and improvements for the spectacle wearing public. Frames were markedly changing and so was the prescription of lenses in their many variations of form and usefulness.

In November 1937, the Institute launched a new project, "The Institute News", in newspaper form edited by Mr G. E. Cox. It was designed to be a three monthly paper of general and local news with some technical content of restricted scope. The policy did not envisage any conflict with the Commonwealth Optometrist which it intended to continue to promote actively. With allowance for revenue from advertisements, the first issues were produced at a nett cost of £4.14.6 each. Somewhat later representatives were appointed in various areas who obtained and forwarded items of a local or personal nature to the Editor and thus the news coverage was really nation-wide. Discussions occurred periodically suggesting a change-over to booklet form. The expense would be doubled and in any case the advent of war prevented any initiative in this field. Despite the management of so many other activities, Mr Cox continued as honorary editor until the end of 1953. It was a venture of major value in communication more especially in the turbulent war years and their aftermath.

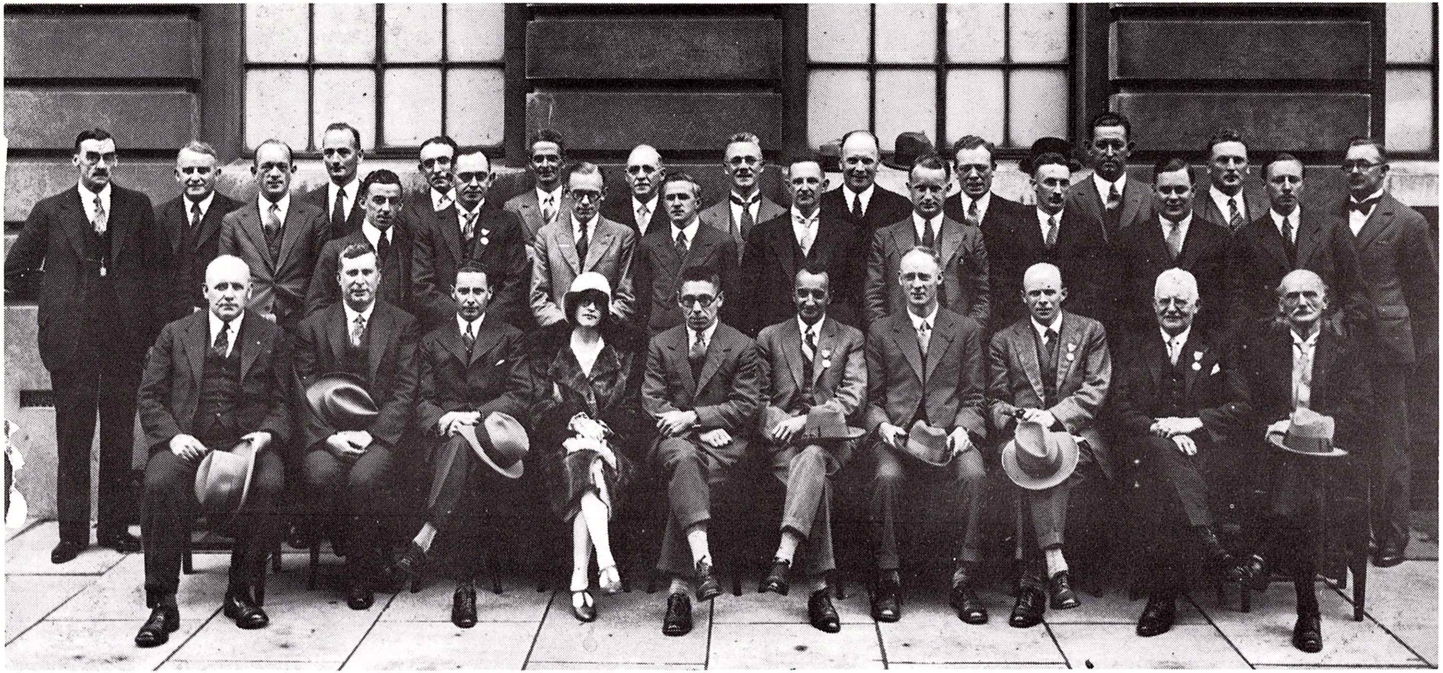
The Annual Conferences were customarily opened by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of the city concerned except in 1934 when the Minister of Health, Sir Alexander Young, opened the Wellington Conference. He referred to the responsibilities of opticians for the public welfare and in his opinion, a workable and working code of ethics was desirable. He urged opticians to work within the spirit of the Institute and especially in advertising - always a troublesome matter - to control it more by persuasion and being persuaded than by rigid regulations. Mr E. A. Sargent thanked the Minister and expressed appreciation of his continued interest in optometric affairs and especially his considerable help at the time of the passing of the Act.

The local Associations in Auckland, Waikato, Palmerston North, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin functioned in their respective spheres and each year brought a report to the Annual Conference. They were invaluable locally, chiefly to create and maintain that sense of mutual comradeship and appreciation; they too provided the local forum for affairs national and general; they also had many lectures, talkettes and discussions on technical subjects and perhaps most importantly they provided that social atmosphere which generated friendship and trust. Their histories are of great value and perhaps someone some day can unfold their stories in detail. In all this period, there was the constant endeavour to raise the overall standards of Institute members so that a worthy profession could be moulded on the basis of the Act yet approximately half of the registered opticians were not Institute members. Although their overall volume of work may have been only, as claimed, 5% or 10% of the gross they nevertheless presented a troublesome tail in standards and ethics and inevitably retarded the public appreciation of optometry's work and values. This was demonstrated in the internecine squabbles with the Transport and Education Departments especially over the acceptance of certificates of vision. Banks also were reluctant to accept opticians' certificates.

Particularly with the Transport Department some liaison was gradually established and two points in particular were stressed viz., that a re-eximanation of visual capacity should occur at least every five years and the necessity for glasses whilst driving should be endorsed on the driver's licence. The latter had not applied prior to the Institute's representations in the immediate pre-war years.

Be it appreciated though that there were only something over one hundred thousand cars on the road and the road death toll was not of public interest. As the years progressed more acceptability of opticians' reports and recommendations took place and the problems diminished in both the local and national areas.

Social functions were a feature of each Conference. The encouragement of ladies accompanying husbands to Conferences was always a feature and the local ladies lost no time in welcoming the visitors. Various trips, tours, exhibitions and places of interest were visited whilst the men deliberated. There would also be an annual golf tournament for the Shepley Cup, the D.O.S. Cup,the Stoco Cup and the Hannaford Cup, all of which were usually used for their rightful purpose afterwards. Perhaps the same evening, if exhaustion was not too great,

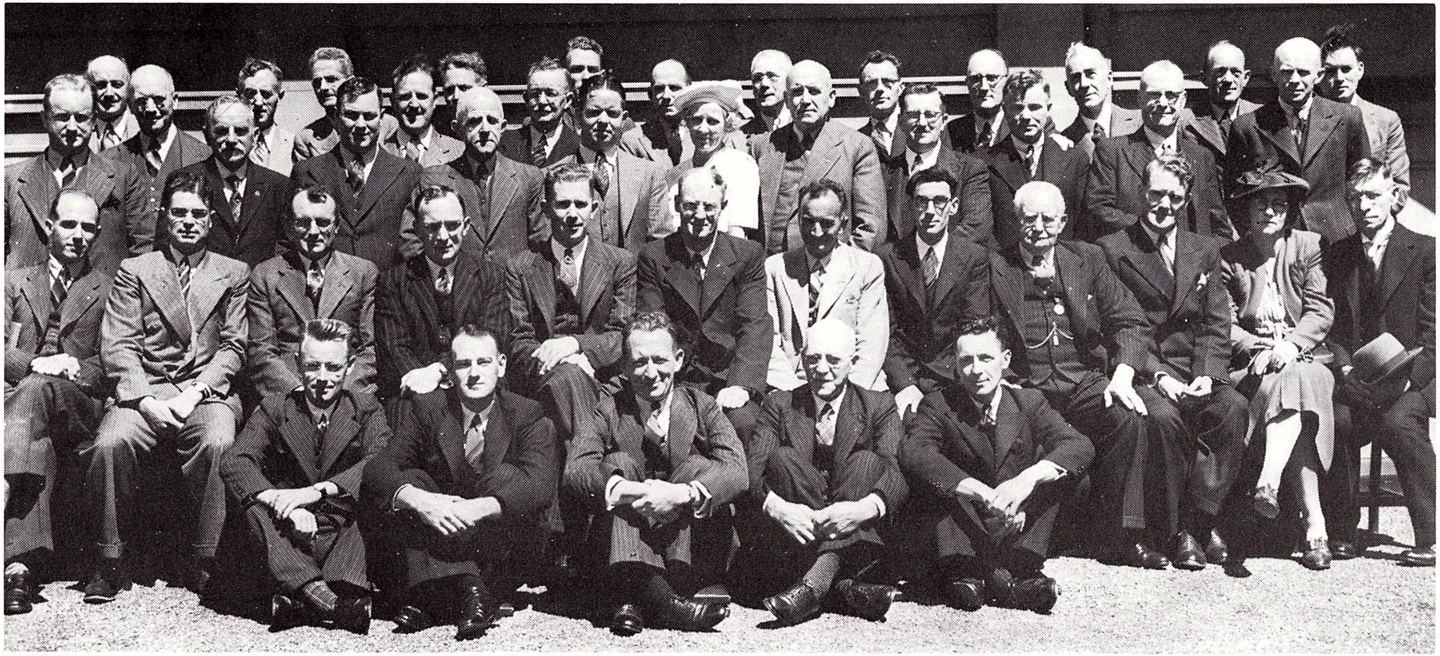


AN EARLY CONFERENCE CIRCA 1933

Back Row: P. Noedl, B. Falck, ? Lilburn, ? Bennett, H. M. Bennett, A. W. Littlejohn, A. Batstone, Hugh Neill, A. H. Fairmaid, G. Read, G. K. Neill, T. L. Cocks

Middle Row: J. P. Stouppe, K. Bartlett, S. McLean, M. de Lacey, L. A. Waters, J. Woolley, A. Kitching, S. Carmichael, H. C. Collett, ----,

Front Row: J. D. Gilmore, H. S. Gilberd, T. D. Peacock, Mrs Suckling, F. G. Hayes-Towns, E. A. Sargent, R. Brooke-Taylor, T. G. Young, H. Spear, H. Deverell



1940 CONFERENCE—WELLINGTON
Fourth Row: A. B. Yeoman, H. M. Conway, H. M. Bennett, J. F. Curtis, F. N. Chapman, E. H. Grocott, R. A. Batstone, R. C. Bailey, E. A. Shattky, C. W. Shepley, J. P. Stouppe, R. J. Barnes
Third Row: M. A. Kitchen, H. Neill, O. E. Neilsen, H. C. Collett, L. Andrews, T. L. Cocks, M. Jenkins, Mrs H. M. Conway, J. D. Gilmore, C. Martyn, ----, F. W. Curtis, T. G. Young
Second Row: A. H. Rose, B. M. Bennett, W. T. Wilson, F. O. Davis, G. E. Cox, R. Brooke-Taylor, E. A. Sargent, R. T. Shanks, H. Spear, L. A. Curtis, Mrs W. E. Suckling, W. V. Sturmer
Front Row: J. A. Thompson, R. F. Black, L. A. Notley, W. Littlejohn, N. Wright

the Annual Social Evening would be held or sometimes a formal Dinner at which toasts and speeches would be a feature and the conviviality would officially finish at a respectable hour.

Christmas came but once a year and the Institute recessed. Before the recess though, the indefatigable secretary would send each member a card of good wishes - his personal touch of rapport exemplified as in this sample:

"May this Xmas be a happy one for all of you and yours
May the New Year bring you all that you deserve:
May the "Come backs" only come back to order a new pair,
And may all your clients insist on "Best Curve";
May those awkward cases praise you and pay up their bill,
May all your indents safely come to hand:
May your dream be one year nearer th' optometrist's ideal,
To finish up his days on the land:
May you meet your "opposition" and greet him with a smile
Take him to the nearest Hostel, tho' you're only two
And fill them up and drink to all the rest."

(L.A.N. 1940)

CHAPTER 5

WAR AND POST-WAR OPTOMETRY IN MILITARY AFFAIRS

"The Second World War produced a civilisation gap - not a generation gap."

(Margaret Mead)

The clouds steadily gathered threateningly and ever more darkly, rent by the lightning as it struck in Austria, Czechoslavia, Abyssinia or Guernica and the Axis lorded its might and power over Europe and shadowed all the world. Lunacy and delusions finally took their fateful plunge over the Dantzig Corridor and the Mother Country was immediately embroiled. With her the multiple parts of the Empire, showed their solidarity in the words of our Prime Minister Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage "where Britain goes New Zealand goes." Our citizens were aghast, almost breathless at the horrifying unknown future and for so many, opticians as well as others, the spectre of the almost unbelievable travail of two world wars within a life time was unfolding. Technology and weaponry, especially air power, had developed so much since 1918 that this new war was to demand almost a scientific and technological revolution.

So it was to be with the demands on vision, vision care and the utilisation of the expertise in the specialised field of the optician, whereas previously such needs were not a part of the practice of war. The country was willing to gear itself to its full contribution for the elimination of the central European tyrannies and a little later the eastern menace starting at Pearl Harbour. But preparations and plans had to be divised as preparedness was at a low ebb. In retrospect, the whole six years of conflict saw this country steadily increase its contribution to the Allied effort by way of greater mobilisation of manpower and resources, the better management of these factors and a fruitful increase in resourcefulness and ingenuity.

Optometry was no exception. In 1939 in the black days of August, the profession had no preparations; possibly there were opinions but the future was so dark and uncertain, that the Institute had no map to guide it on its way. No one knew the shape of things to come - even if history did repeat itself with an Expeditionary Force. The passage of time saw the despatch of the First Echelon to the old theatre of Egypt in January 1940 to be followed in May by the Second Echelon to Britain and the

Third Echelon later. So the pattern of events unfolded and the contribution of optometry, small but necessary, gradually assumed a place in these eventful years of turmoil.

The Annual Conference in February of 1940 fell in the Centennial Year marking the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and fittingly the Conference was held in the capital city. The president, Mr R. Brooke-Taylor in his address, said, "Apart from our duty as individual members of this great Empire, we have a duty as members of an important and growing profession. It is our obligation to lend every assistance to the nation-wide war effort. I am proud to say that some of the younger members were among the first to answer the country's call thereby sacrificing their training and prospects of early qualification. We will, in the passage of time, be faced with a shortage of members, both refractionists and mechanics, but fortunately we are a well organised and harmonious body so that, if necessary, the best manipulation of manpower should be possible to achieve the maximum good. The number of soldiers in the First Echelon with glasses was public comment and enquiries from the authorities has revealed the fact that a physically fit recruit is no longer rejected because he wears glasses, provided that with glasses his acuity is of the required standard and also that he is not vitally disadvantaged in the event of their loss. This makes common sense as does the policy of fitting men into service activities where their abilities and training can be best used. A particular type of spectacle frame had been adopted with a considerable nickel component, suitable for all useage and climates and fitted with curl sides. It is described as the "Mark III Metal" frame. It can be worn under a gas mask and each man is supplied with a duplicate pair."

A review of Institute activities especially in late 1939 was presented by Mr G. E. Cox and at this time there was no military provision for the particular services of opticians, and it seemed the most useful activity was either in the Medical Corps or the Ordinance Corps (instrument section). On enlistment the military authorities decided where each recruit would be drafted. The other aspect of war service was the supply of services and glasses. Once the Executive was aware that spectacle wearing recruits would be accepted, a tentative scheme of supply was evolved and a letter was sent to the Director-General of Medical Services, (hereafter called the D.G.M.S.) Colonel Bowerbank, offering the Institute's members services for refraction, the supply of visual aids and the repair and duplication of these aids. The basic idea was to provide a service to each of the main military camps. A meeting between the D.G.M.S., Major Gibbs his assistant, Dr G. W. Harty and Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor and G. E. Cox was held in late 1939. The meeting was of a co-operative nature and a sample frame was requested from overseas together with a schedule of costs and charges. At a subsequent interview a complete proposal was submitted detailing the proposed organisation, the routine examination, the scope of duties and fees and charges. The last item was based on the Institute scale including an examination fee of seven shillings and sixpence. Colonel Bowerbank then explained that the Army personnel might be so equipped at their overseas base or the matter might be classified as an item of personal hygiene like dentistry when it would be a home-based procedure.

The policy decision had to come from the Organisation for National Security. In due course this body, despite the favourable military attitude, decided that as all specialist medical services were provided by civilian hospitals, this particular work fell into this category. Furthermore, the Army was instructed to arrange the indenting of frame supplies and arrangements were to be made for the prescription work to be done by the prescription houses. The ensuing debate within the Institute on this negative report, produced many differing viewpoints ranging from forceful protests and representations to the acceptance of the status quo. The latter viewpoint prevailed and doubt was expressed that the medical and hospital resources could cope with the increasing volume of work, and so the first months of 1940 saw the Institute ready and willing to fulfil a military need, yet with its resources sitting idle. Proceedings were in limbo until a communication was received from the Adjutant-General enquiring why the price schedules previously submitted were so much higher than those of a wholesale firm. The latter had been supplied by an unauthorised boy per telephone and were entirely wrong. This pricing episode led to a full schedule of costs together with a working scheme being submitted on 10 July 1940. Discussions ensued but there was a hiatus whilst a new Adjutant-General, Brigadier A. E. Conway, was harnessing himself to his onerous task. It was in early 1940, that Brigadier Conway's son, Barry, obtained his F.B.O.A. membership. Meantime, providentially, there was an urgent communication from the Base Hospital in Egypt containing a strong complaint of the incomplete equipment of the troops with regard to spectacles.The Adjutant-General was anxious to have this situation remedied and incidentally sought negotiations to commence an Optometrical Service. This was ratified by a War Cabinet decision of 25 October 1940 to supply a limited refraction service and the supply of Mark III spectacles to troops of the Expeditionary Force. Groups of names were submitted to the Military Department by the Executive with the Adjutant-General making the selection. This was to be a camp service provided on a civilian basis. The camp optician was carefully instructed in the necessary Army procedures and the recording of the prescription in the pay-book. The contract work was done by the presecription houses at a flat rate of seven shillings and ninepence and the dispensing and final supply was performed by the camp optician. The president and Mr G. E. Cox visited the various centres adjacent to the main military camps (Papakura, Trentham, Burnham and Ngaruawahia) to explain and elucidate the procedures necessary and also to establish liasion with the senior medical officer at each camp. It is believed that Mr H. C. Collett was the first camp optician to issue a prescription whilst probably earlier Mr P. Dick in the St. John's Ambulance coterie preformed screening tests for draftees. Equipment and transport was provided at this stage by the camp optician himself and the camp provided best facilities possible for examinations.

Following the successful inaugaration of the camp optician it was realised that optometry could well assist in grading recruits thus relieving some pressure on the sorely pressed medical power. A proposal was placed before the Army and the Medical Council of the Organisation for National Security. There were twelve military regions covering New Zealand and each region had various medical boards of two doctors. Each region was controlled by a Regional Deputy answerable to the above Council. Thus the military recruited through medical boards of civilian personnel and was so linked finally with the D.G.M.S.

Cases were documented where camp opticians had several instances in which the visual acuities were far below military needs but these men had been admitted to camp and in some cases had completed three months training. It was therefore suggested that Institute members should act in conjunction with Medical Boards ensuring the accurate grading of all recruits. It was shown that provided the optician could keep pace with the medical boards at the rate of one man per six minutes, much more accurate visual assessment was possible. The Medical Council approved and the reaction of the Regional Deputies was generally favourable so that the Institute negotiators finally received approval from the Director-General of Health to proceed with the appointment of Institute members in the necessary military areas. Much hard work and many inconveniences to members ensued in the provision of this service but it was a tribute to local members' sense of duty and earned the commendation of all Regional Deputies. It continued with local modifictions throughout the war years.

The Air Force at this period provided for its personnel at the Out-Patients Departments of the Public Hospitals; the supply of glasses being undertaken on a repayment basis. Prescriptions would be dispensed by opticians at current charges i.e. about forty-five shillings of which sum the Air Force repaid to the recruit nearly two pounds. No particular type of frame was specified by the Air Force. In Britain, some orthoptic training was provided where necessary but opinion here in New Zealand was so varied and contrary amongst both ophthalmologists and opticians that no orthoptic provisions were ever promulgated.

A manpower survey was also instituted in conjunction with the Controller of National Service. The depletion of manpower at this stage (1940) was not too severe. There was a loss of 5% of refractionists and more critically a loss of 25% of mechanics. Various guidelines were introduced to avoid any crisis although the matter became larger with later extensions of optometry's war effort. Perhaps it is appropriate here to consider optometrical resources, in the early war years. The late thirties had seen a surge in optometrical demand by the lifting of the depression years and the expansion in examination techniques, public appreciation of opticians and their services and also in the fledgling emergence of cosmetic awareness in eye-wear. Thus optometry was an expanding profession. Possibly more importantly and with far reaching results, the students throughout the thirties were of a high calibre and the ten year period produced 40 graduates. There was a continued thirst for more knowledge and competence pushed from behind by men like Suckling, Hayes-Towns, Cox, Collet, Bennett, Neill and Peacock. The author's apologies to all those others unamed. A goodly proportion of graduates proceeded overseas for further education and the commencement of the war saw men like Cocks, Newall, Martyn, Aurisch and Conway in Britain. So the standard of education of the New Zealand optician was comparable to those anywhere else in the world and this enabled these younger men to display technical competence and professional knowledge that was so readily accepted by the medical and dental fraternities in the military sphere.

Until some recognisable professional need was established for opticians and mechanics it was natural that the younger generation would not stand idly by and the following is an incomplete summary of those members and associates who were serving in the latter part of 1940.

Capt. S. J. Hedge	O.C.H.Q. Coy, 24th Battalion, 3rd Echelon
Pte. E. Skeates	Ordnance Section, Trentham
Lieut. W. Brackenbridge	Navy Head Office, Wellington
Pte. B. Haigh	Egypt, 1st Echelon
P/O. Ned Brooke-Taylor	Whenuapai
A/C Rex Brooke-Taylor	Woodburne, Blenheim
Pte. K. Gentry	Instrument Section, Trentham
A/C I. G. Neill	Aircraft Instrument Section, Wigram
Lieut. G. Falck	Coastal Defence, Lyttleton
Pte. G. Chance	N.C.O. Training, Papakura
Capt. R. Baker	Egypt, 1st Echelon
Lieut./Col. D. Lilburne	C.O. Territorial Taining Forces, Wellington
L/Seaman H. Triplow	Merchant Navy
Pte. R. Dick	N.C.O. Camp, Addington
A/C H. Taylor	Instrument Section, Wigram
Gunner C. Martyn	N.Z. Field Artillary (Special Training)
Sgt. R. C. Bailey	4th Field Battery
Pte. A. Batstone	Territorials
A/C J. A. Robb	Instrument Section, Hobsonville
A/C D. Shattky	Instrument Section, Wigram
A/C K. McPhun	Pilot Training, Woodburne
Capt. H. M. Conway	Territorials, Narrow Neck

Messrs R. Cocks and B. Conway joined the 2nd Echelon in England and Messrs L. Newall (Navy) and D. Aurisch (R.A.F.) also enlisted in England.

Some questioning of the standards of vision prescribed by the Medical Committee of the Organisation for National Service had occurred from the earliest contacts by the Institute and with the co-operation of the Army some experiments were carried out by members under practical field conditions. The outstanding point to be highlighted was that a visual defect became more hazardous under increasingly difficult conditions of visibility. Around this same period, copies of new British standards were received but these were not adopted. Nevertheless as a consequence of the above, some N.Z. modifications were made in December 1940. Briefly, granted the recruit was free of ocular disease:

Grade I: All men with 6/24 unaided vision in each eye or 6/6 in one eye and at least 6/60 in the other eye provided the latter was correctable to 6/12.

Grade II: All men with unaided vision below 6/24 but above 6/60 and correctable to 6/12 in each eye or unaided vision of 6/12 and less than 6/24 in the other eye which cannot be corrected to 6/12 or has been lost or practically lost.

Grade III: All men with other degrees of defect.

Grade IV: All men who have lost the sight of both eyes or cannot earn a living in any occupation for which eyesight is essential.

It was in 1940 that the president, Mr R. Brooke-Taylor, lost two sons on active service; Keith serving in the R.A.F. in operations over the North Sea and Rex while serving with the R.N.Z.A.F. The Conference of 1941 expressed the sincere sympathy of all members to Mr and Mrs R. Brooke-Taylor.

A statistical survey of all ballot personnel for August 1941 in certain cross-section areas was conducted in conjunction with the Medical Statistics Officer and the analysis of 2,579 men revealed the following visual gradings:—

Grade I 90.11%
Grade II 6.24%
Grade III and referred cases 3.65%

A further internal survey prompted by heavy manpower losses in 1939 and 1940 revealed that there were severe difficulties in some localities as the depletion of reasonably experienced mechanics was nearly 50% and full time refractionists had decreased by 17% with another eleven to be called in an approaching ballot. Representations were made to the Controller of National Service and after several discussions the Controller conceded the gravity of the situation. It was thus decided to set up a small manpower utilisation committee for all aspects of optometrical service so that the Department would be fully informed on manpower, reorganisation, distribution of materials and all auxilliary matters. This committee on appointment comprised Professor Lipsom as chairman, Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor and G. Cox (employers) and Messrs L. Avery and R. Armstrong (employees) and it became intimately involved in restricting the number engaged in full-time military service so that reasonable services could be maintained for the civilian population.

On the home front, in late 1941 or early 1942, organistion of the visual services was operating efficiently despite the inevitable minor problems and the opticians were fully versed in all the requirements and regulations. The war needs and aspects steadily assumed a new dimension and outlook as the indications became clear that several more wearying years lay ahead. Grade II men were being mobilised and thus visual care needs heightened. Early in 1942 representations were made to the Adjutant-General and the D.G.M.S. by the Central Executive of the Institute pointing out the need for a full optical service and simultaneously indicating how the services under the civilian scheme to this date had improved the visual efficiency of the Forces.

A scheme was placed before the Minister of Defence suggesting the appointment of seven registered opticians with commissioned rank (one as Officer-in-charge at Medical Headquarters) to provide a full refraction service to the Forces. Equipment was to be purchased by the Army and all technical lens work was to be performed by the prescription houses under contract. The Army would supply the Mark III frames.

All personnel were to be N.Z. Medical Corps (maroon patch) and under the control of the D.G.M.S. via the optician officer in charge.

This scheme was approved by War Cabinet on 14 July 1942. Nominations were requested from the Institute for the appointments, the first being made on 17 August. All the appointees held high qualifications whilst the majority had had English post-graduate study. Three were drawn from other Army sections and four from private practice. The necessary subsidiary staff of orderlies had all had some optical experience as mechanics or assistants. In the first few months, whilst holding full status as a branch of the New Zealand Medical Corps, some difficulties were experienced. These were mostly of intergrating a new service into the complex working of the military machine and the major difficulty of obtaining supplies and equipment. The original units established were:—

Officer-in-charge Army Medical Headquarters Lieut. G. E.Cox 17/8/42.

No. 1 Unit (2nd N.Z.E.F.)	2/Lieut. E. R. Boyd 18/8/42
No. 2 Unit	2/Lieut. W. M. P. Barry 16/9/42
No. 3 Unit	2/Lieut. E. E. Skeates 7/9/42
No. 4 Unit	2/Lieut. M. W. Cholerton 18/8/42
No. 5 Unit	2/Lieut. P. N. Dick 6/10/42
No. 6 Unit	2/Lieut B. M. Bennett 9/1/43
No. 7 Unit	2/Lieut. L. F. Inglis 11/1/43

Each unit consisted of an officer and orderly. An early decision was reached to send overseas to the Pacific area, an optician unit fully equipped and capable of completely supplying the visual requirements of the Divisional Forces. The Institute hurriedly proceeded to make good its previous offer to supply whatever mechanical equipment would be needed. A circular appeal for funds to defray the equipment expenses of about £90 exceeded requirements and the surplus of £45 was later used for other purchases. The complete unit included: (a) full refracting equipment including a refractor head, and all hand instruments; (b) a generator of 12v capacity motivated by a petrol engine and also motive power for a hand edger as well as all necessary work bench equipment; (c) stocks of Mark III frames; (d) a comprehensive stock of uncut toric lenses. The personnel consisted of Lieut. E. R. Boyd, Sgt. N. A.. Hipwell and Pte. B. T. Thompson. The provision of this first overseas unit provided every satisfaction.

No. 8 Optician Unit was formed in July 1943 and with mechanical section attached, proceeded for duty to the N.Z. Forces, Army and Air, located in Fiji and Tonga. A special accommodation was constructed in Suva and later the services were extended to the Fijian Commando Units for whom a complete visial surveillance was performed. This unit was commanded then by Lieut. W. M. P. Barry.

No. 9 Optician Unit was formed in August to provide a service to No. 1 Islands Group, R.N.Z.A.F. personnel in the Pacific area. Its base depot was at Santos and visits were paid to other appropriate locations. The specific requirements for Air provided some interesting subjects for research. This unit was commanded then by Lieut. M. W. Cholerton. Other officers were commissioned to fill the vacancies in the New Zealand based units as the above personnel moved out to the war zones.

Brigadier Sir Fred Bowerbank, D.G.M.S. (1936-47) in his book "A Doctors' Story" has the following passage: "In order to relieve the burden on the depleted medical practitioners, I recommended, without success, the formation of a small number of travelling medical boards. One reason I gave concerned complaints received from 2 N.Z.E.F. that two servicemen, accepted as Grade I by civilian medical boards, had each lost an eye and others marked as Grade I in New Zealand, required spectacles because of marked visual defects. As a result of this, the Adjutant-General discussed with me the formation of optician service. I then discussed it with Lieut-Colonel W. J. Hope-Robertson who was honorary ophthalmologist to all three services, Navy, Army and Air. He agreed on condition that any abnormality detected by an optician should be referred to an eye specialist. I then saw Mr George Cox, a leading Wellington optician, and between us we drew up regulations for submission to and approval by the Adjutant-General. As the optician service was part of the Medical Corps and under the control of the D.G.M.S., Cox was commissioned as a captain. He was attached to Army Headquarters and he nominated opticians for the various centres.

These men, on approval, were commissioned as lieutenants.

Some of the eye specialists first opposed the formation of this optician service but I can say without reservation that it was an unqualified success. There was not a single complaint for the rest of the war. I heard from the Director of Military Services in the Middle East that the eye specialists were overworked but I was unable to send any relief. I therefore suggested to him that I should despatch an optician unit, complete with full equipment and after some hesitation he agreed. It proved so satisfactory that a request was made for a second unit." The Brigadier's references to rank were somewhat at variance with the initial commissionings.

A War Cabinet decision of 28 August 1943 extended the optician service to Navy and Air Force personnel. This resulted in the formation within a few months of four more home based units, so that in 1944 the full complement was reached.

No. 1 Unit	Pacific Lieut. E. R. Boyd
No. 2 Unit	Mobile Northern District Lieut. G. C. Abbott
No. 3 Unit	Mobile, Southern District 2/Lieut. L. N. Medlin
No. 4 Unit	Wellington Lieut. B. E. Conway
No. 5 Unit	Burnham Lieut. P. N. Dick
No. 6 Unit	Mobile Central District Lieut. B. M. Bennett
No. 7 Unit	Papakura Lieut. W. M. P. Barry
No. 8 Unit	Pacific Lieut. A. H. T. Rose
No. 9 Unit	Pacific Lieut. M. W. Cholerton
No. 10 Unit	Trentham Lieut. B. E. Conway
No. 11 Unit	Rongotai 2/Lieut. R. N. Yorke
No. 12 Unit	Auckland Lieut. W. M. P. Barry
No. 13 Unit	Christchurch Lieut. P. N. Dick

Other officers at other times were; 2/Lieut. L. F. Inglis, C. R. Martyn, C. Coker, E. E. Skeates and F. O. Davis. The gross pay of 2/Lieut. was 16/6 per day and that of a Lieut. 17/6 plus allowances.

The supply of equipment within very limited periods proved difficult and some was even flown out from the U.S.A. Initially nearly all equipment was loaned by Institute members and some local manufacture was also done. War Cabinet authority was for about three hundered pounds per unit and this enabled the equipment to compare favourably with the average consulting room. Special sets of rooms were built in Papakura and Burnham and accommodation provided in the hospital plans for Trentham and Linton. However, in view of the large number of camps scattered throughout New Zealand, it was decided that mobile vans be constructed in Wellington.These were built on 158 inch wheel base, cab over engine chassis. The body consisted of a consulting room 12ft by 7ft 6ins and an office and stock room adjoining 5ft by 7ft 6 ins. These long vans did provide excessive rear overhang which later was a problem on Bailey Bridges overseas. Up to V.E. Day this service had provided thirty thousand visual examinations in addition to many thousands of surveillance and boarding visual checks.

With the despatch of No. 1 Unit under Lieut. E. R. Boyd equipped to provide all facets of optometrical service except the unrequired facility to manufacture lenses from raw blanks, it is believed that New Zealand was the first allied country to operate independent units although Australia followed soon afterwards. The British optical units were limited to purely technician duties as were probably the American.

The final overseas unit was No. 14 destined for the 2 N.Z.E.F., Central Mediterranean Forces. It was totally self-supporting with an establishment of a mobil refraction van, a Chev. 4 x 4 chassis with a specially designed workshop including surfacing equipment, a 15cwt truck for service purposes later, full cooking and field living equipment and a generator for all purposes. This was despatched in January 1944 and saw service at Base Camp, Maadi, Egypt and throughout the 1944-45 actions from Bari to Trieste. It was normally stationed with one of the Field Ambulances in a support area and with ophthalmological services situated at Base Hospitals frequently 100-300 miles rearwards, this unit saw and advised on many topics or conditions only fringing on optometry. The medical personnel associated repeatedly sought help and opinion whilst being cognisant of the extended role being expected from this unit. The personnel consisted of the officer commanding, *(editorially,it may be noted that the author's modesty has prevented him from recording that the officer concerned was F. O. Davis)* two mechanics, an orderly and three A.S.C. attachments for vehicle maintenance and mobility. This unit under instructions from Brigadier Kendrick catered for British and American neighbouring forces and in common with all medical units in newly occupied territory, did some work for the civilian population. It was visited by the Prime Minister Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, and later by the Minister of Defence and participated in a roadside welcome to Sir Winston Churchill at Castillena. Major-General B. C. Freyberg visited the unit several times and refractive work was done for his presbyopia as well as satisfying him on some searching questions particularly in the areas of visual fatigue and night vision. Major H. Coverdale, the senior ophthalmologist and Brigadier H. S. Kendrick (D.M.G.) throughout the summer of 1944 pressed strongly for the despatch of a second unit to relieve the gross overload of work whilst granting to the present officer in the field the rank of Captain. This substantive promotion occasioned a movement upwards of all optician unit officers at home and overseas, subject to the normal military requirements. By V.E. Day the unit was camped at the Isonzo River, near Monfalcone. Afterwards it was withdrawn in various stages to 3 General Hospital at Bari. Work was now limited as troops steadily embarked for home, so in terms of the Geneva Convention, help was provided at a 35,000 strong prisoner of war camp. The highest refraction found there was R.-12.00 -2.00x 15 6/24 and L.-3.50 ax45 6/18. Truly the German manpower was totally mobilised. Lenses were made from thick window glass. This unit returned to New Zealand and was the last active service unit demobilised in February 1946. Sometime in late 1944, No. 15 Unit was formed under the command of Lieut.L. N. Medlin. Meantime No. 1 Unit had ceased operation.

Two aspects of research were pursued in these years. First there had been some variation and confusion in the recordings of visual acuities. This was due to a multiplicity of reasons and was not confined to the Army Service either before or since. It was decided to conduct a research project on some hundreds of people to determine the relative readability of each non-serif letter at 100 feet. The findings were all calculated and tabulated and averaged for each letter resulting in as much as 7½% and in an isolated case 10% in size difference to produce equal readability. The intention was to present a line of letters of varying sizes but of equal difficulty to enable a candidate to either read all the line of letters or none at all. Charts were thus produced with specified letter size differences and these became uniform throughout the Forces. They effected a major improvement in accurately recording visual acuities. The second project was largely the work of Lieut. W. M. P. Barry who produced a nyctolometer for the assessment of night vision. It was based on considerable research and both projects occasioned full technical reports to Military Headquarters. The latter instrument was used considerably for elucidation or confirmation purposes in the Home areas but because of various geographical and pyschological factors it was not used by 2 N.Z.E.F.

So in the August and September days of 1945, demobilisation was rapid and drastic throughout the three services and soon thereafter only Captains Boyd, Rose and Cholerton and Lieut. Medlin remained on a full-time basis within New Zealand. During the existence of this Optician Service, 17 registered opticians, several with more than two years service, 14 mechanics and orderlies with pre-service experience were utilised and 23 orderlies and clerks were engaged. Some figure over twenty thousand represented the number of spectacles supplied and the objective of maintaining in a visually fit condition every serving soldier, sailor and non-flying airman fell short of the optimum by a very slender margin. The military authorities decided that a complete visual check was not necessary for demobilisation and records, and only those personnel with definite visual symptoms should receive an examination by an ophthalmologist or optician. This decision of October 1945 was unfavourably received by the the Institute Executive and strenuous efforts with the Director-General of Health and the War Pensions Board to have this decision reversed, met with no success. The matter was taken to Ministerial level but the demobilisation axe of economy was too well sharpened and no representation availed.

Major G. E. Cox continued his duties at Medical Army Headquarters but on a diminishing part-time basis and the Department decided that the requirements of the remaining Forces personnel should be provided by ex-members of the Optician Service. Some enlargement was necessary in certain territorial areas. Early post-war Conferences brought forth some opposition to these appointments: the argument being that in peace time, each person to be examined should have free choice of optician. However, the Military authorities resisted this argument. They stated that they preferred the experience of their ex-officers in Army needs and procedures and further more that they were the employing and paying authority.

The final activity of note for the Army Optician Service, although slightly post-war, was the formation and despatch of No. 16 Optical Unit to Japan with the Occupation Forces. The personnel and equipment under Captain L. N. Medlin, landed at Iwakuni and the twenty-four cases of equipment complete with six train guards was transferred to Yamaguchi on the first day of April 1946. The Unit was situated at the Dental and Hygiene Camp and rationed and quartered there also. Later in April, Brigadier K. L. Stewart (N.Z. Brigade) visited and inspected the unit and in August Brigadier Bowerbank (D.G.M.S.) was present. He states in his book: "I included a report (for Minister of Defence and Chief of Staff) on the optician unit which was now accepted by the medical officers as an essential part of the Medical Corps." A sample month's work (July) was:—

number refracted	37
number refracted and prescribed	27
number with no prescriptions required	11
other attendances	30

a total of 68

In early March 1947, Capt. R. N. Yorke arrived and assumed command on 29 March. In late May, the unit packed and transferred to the hospital area at Kuva. Not much work was done there as in July the unit was disbanded and repatriated. A full history of this unit, also 14 Optician Unit, is obtainable from their respective monthly war dairies at War Archives in Wellington.

New Zealand was settling down to a peace time basis and with widely differing opinions was pondering on the shape of things to come. Commerce must be rejuvenated and new overseas relationships formed especially in the Pacific Basin, family life must resume its normal full value and a sense of trust and harmony must gradually supplant the tension, loss and bitterness of war.

In all this reappraisal, the safety and welfare of the country must be considered, and the Labour Government of the day gave long and searching consideration to the future prepardeness of the country. Finally in order to ascertain the national opinion a referendum was held in 1949 as a yes/no question on compulsory military training. The affirmative vote carried with it a promise from the Prime Minister that the best of medical, dental and optical services would be available in the examination and selection of youths for military service. Thus the

Institute was advised on 23 December 1949 that its members' services were required for the call-up of 18 year old males. Fast movement throughout the country was necessary by executive members to explain the requirements and arrange appointment of members. A regional organiser was required in each city and he liaised on the one hand with the Regional Medical Officer and on the other hand with his fellow colleagues in arranging work details. The total to be examined was numerically smaller than tested by the wartime medical boards but the requirements were much more rigid and the examination of wider range. A new form was introduced. It made provision for every practical detail in each case and an extremely thorough task must be carried out in a systematic and methodical manner. The results were then transferred within the new PULHEEMS system of medical classification. They in turn carried their due weight in the overall assessment of the individual. A "Medical Guide" to this system was circulated and it required frequent reference for correct interpretations as the visual aspect occupied a considerable portion of the publication. For administrative reasons the call-up of 18 year-old males was being handled by the Labour Department which had requested the appointment of a Dominion Organiser. The optometrical aspect had been handled by a sub-committee of Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor, G. E. Cox, R. R. Cocks, and L. A. Notley and the 1950 Conference in February passed a motion asking for the continuation of this committee. Their work commenced immediately and involved much detail with a Department unaccustomed to such work. Also most members in the whole Institute membership list were involved and the routine examination and system were quite different from their everyday practice. It was in considerable contrast to the Army Optician Service which used a small selected group with rather similar backgrounds and a special camaraderie. The guide booklet also proved capable of different interpretations in varying hands. Borderline cases appeared sometimes, especially in cases of acuity gradings and binocular functions. Quite often a small difference in grading the "P. Box" would be the determining factor in deciding whether the candidate did or did not do military training. There could develop as much query in a rejected case who previously had no suspicion of a visual disability as in a case accepted who imagined or exaggerated some visual problem. Methods of detail had to be standardised as far as possible to produce widespread uniformity, e.g. the near phoria was taken with a Maddox Rod and measured by a rotary prism despite the fact that this could be argued as being a poor method. On the other hand, it was readily acceptable everywhere and uniform nationally.

By mid 1952 the visual examinations of the 21 year olds had been nearly completed. Meantime there was an accumulation of 18 year olds - the age of call-up having been changed - but steady continuous work of the Medical Boards reduced the backlog and in 1953 the examiners were down to the normal intake load.

Some problems in the fifties arose through recruits wearing undetected contact lenses. The latter appliances were then not very familiar to all practitioners and the Central Committee issued a special circular in 1952 warning and instructing all examiners on contact lens detection. Four candidates were usually examined per hour; some opticians used an assistant as their scribe whilst examining; some locations used the drill hall or similar, and in other places the private consulting rooms were used. Non attendance or late attendance was a recurring problem almost everywhere and the work on low fees was unproductive and mostly performed as a contribution to the public good. In many cases, the Labour Department used their best and, in some cases, special endeavours to solve the absentee problem but it persisted in varying degrees. The Central Committee met frequently, often weekly or fortnightly, to deal with matters from the examining opticians, the Department, the Army Service or other sundry sources. It also at various times carried out a check of the Med III Forms coming through the Department channels in Wellington and so it was able to pinpoint errors or deficiencies. These would be taken up with the area concerned or else incorporated as special instructions in the next general circular. Any inaccuracies, deficiencies or discrepencies decreased as each year of work passed by and in all it came within the penumbra of the routine examinations proposed by Mr G. E. Cox especially around the 1940 period. It should be noted that in July 1949, a sudden heavy load was thrown on the organisation with the call-up of K. Force. Circumstances required their boarding being completed in two weeks. Thanks largely to the efficiency of the District Organisers and their associated colleagues this emergency situation was coped with.

This might perhaps be an opportune time at which to examine the broader aspects of the picture. Undoubtably the profession was receiving major benefit from the scheme. Every male in New Zealand on reaching eighteen years, was undergoing a reasonably full visual examination. He was being introduced to good examination rooms, professionally conducted and well equipped. He therefore realised there was much more to a visual examination than just reading letters from a chart. He was being made eye conscious and shown if and to what degree his vision fell below normal. He was questioned at home afterwards and the whole examination performance would be described for his family's benefit. Those publicity factors were of major value, and a strong source of good-will for optometry and the particular examiner.

Concurrently with the conduct of C.M.T. requirements, Mr Cox, who was now Director of Optometrical Services (Navy, Army, Air) received the official consent of the Minister of Defence to form a Territorial Optometrical Service and to invite applications for appointments. All appointees would commence with commissioned rank and nine were subsequently appointed. Later the number was fourteen plus Capts. A.

H. T. Rose and M. W. Cholerton as instructors.

The C.M.T. procedure terminated in 1959 and the following letter was received by the Organising Committee from Mr H. L. Bockett, Secretary of Labour: "Further to my letter of 17th August, the Government on the advice of the Medical Committee under the National Service Registration Act, has decided that full visual examination under the Act is no longer justified, and is to be discontinued as from December 1st 1959.

"I have been directed by the Minister of Labour, in which I join on my own behalf, to express to you thanks and appreciation for the wonderful service and co-operation received from your Optometrical Committee, and from the individual opticians who have participated in the examinations since the Military Training Act came into operation in 1949.

"The examinations have gone off without a hitch, and the experience gained should be helpful to your members and my department should a major emergency occur."

With the changing times, Parliament passed the National Service Training Act 1959 which on a ballot system of birthday dates, called up about 3,500 men. With deletions, exemptions and medical reasons this was designed to provide an annual intake of 2,000 men and these ballottees passed the prescribed medical and visual standards. They were required to perform 14 weeks full-time training in their first year and thereafter some part-time service for three years. This Act was abolished in 1972 and a Volunteers Employment Protection Act (1973) substituted. Nowadays all recruits (except permanent staff) are volunteers and no visual examination is required unless some visual problem is manifested. In each centre an accredited optometrist is retained to fulfil the necessary requirements.

It was in 1964 that Major Cox relinquished duties at Army Headquarters and Captain R. R. Cocks assumed the position of Officer in charge. The whole defence organisation was gradually evolving towards the present day structure and so it was possible to appoint Captain H. C. Russell as deputy at Defence Medical Directorate: Captain Cocks resigned in 1972 and since then the optometrical affairs have been under the charge of Captain Russell.

The future is uncertain. The past has established optometry as a necessary part of all affairs visual. The nucleus exists now to provide for mobilisation boardings, to service serving personnel within New Zealand and to be able to supply units if required for overseas. May these unhappy events never occur. There had been good experience of the splendid performance of the civilian workshops and without doubt they would fulfil an equally worthy part again if necessary - also equipment is held to enable a number of units to be immediately put in the field, but surely peace and tranquility will reign in this small isolated country.

LIST OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS 1942-46
NEW ZEALAND MEDICAL CORPS

					Posted to Reserve
Abbott G. C.	2/Lt.	1/6/43	Lt.	16/1/44	15/6/45
Barry W. M. P.	2/Lt.	16/9/42	Temp. Capt.	1/1/45	
			Capt.	15/10/45	21/11/45
Bennett B. M.	2/Lt.	9/1/43	Lt.	9/7/43	26/12/45
Boyd E. R.	2/Lt.	18/8/42	Lt.	6/11/42	
			Temp. Capt.	1/1/45	12/4/46
Cholerton M. W.	2/Lt.	18/8/42	Lt.	7/9/43	
			Temp.Capt.	1/1/45	15/8/50
Coker C.	2/Lt.	9/7/45			5/10/45
Conway B. E.	2/Lt.	18/10/43	Temp. Lt.	18/4/44	7/1/45
Cox G. E.	Temp. Lt	17/8/42	Temp. Capt.	17/8/43	6/1/47
			Major	1/8/57	reposted to P/T Service 1/4/47
Davis F. O.	2/Lt.	23/3/43	Lt.	5/1/44	
			Capt. 31/3/45	28/4/46	
Dick P. N.	2/Lt.	6/10/42	Temp. Lt.	9/7/43	
			Temp. Capt.	1/1/45	21/11/45
Inglis L. F.	2/Lt.	11/1/43			25/12/43
Martyn C. R.	2/Lt.	1/6/43			19/2/44
Medlin L. N.	2/Lt.	16/3/44	Lt.	16/9/44	
			Temp. Capt.	1/9/46	5/6/47
Rose A. H. T.	2.Lt.	5/4/43	Lt.	17/7/43	
			Temp. Capt.	5/3/45	7/2/46
Skeates E. E.	2/Lt.	7/9/42			1/6/44
Yorke R. N.	2/Lt.	23/3/44	Lt.	22/9/44	
			Temp. Capt.	17/2/47	
			Capt.	23/12/47	3/12/48

All temporary Captains were posted to Reserve as substantive Captains.

CHAPTER 6

INTO PEACE AND THE FIFTIES

War raged and all endeavours were primarily attuned to its successful conclusion. It was long and wearisome but even within those years a modicum of internal Institute functioning occurred. Travelling was difficult, petrol was very scarce, conferences were mostly curtailed to one day without any social activities and manpower was severely taxed. Delays were frequent, supplies were unpredictable, shortages and replacements were a nagging problem but withal the Institute pursued a steady course throughout those years and into the post-war years with new and often untried avenues. The second president of the Institute continued in office until the 1946 Conference and no story will adequately tell Mr R. Brooke-Taylor's war years of continuous toil in dozens of Institute matters. It was in 1943 that his thoughts were being directed to the post-war supply of opticians. Like all other occupations, optometry was stripped of all its future material. Some members were in the combatant arms of the Forces, some were in the optician service, regretfully some were lost in hostilities and few entries were coming forward for the examinations. The Government was also thinking of post-war rehabilitation and already some pronouncements had been made in relation to post-war University classes. The President wondered if the world tragedy might provide a golden opportunity for a new standard of training leading to a University degree and he felt the mind of the Government might be receptive.

Mr H. M. Bennett of Napier occupied the presidential chair in 1947. This was epoch making in that the presidency was now located outside Wellington as from the last Annual Meeting. Another stalwart, who had laboured from the founding of the Institute of Optometrists 1922 and even earlier still, now occupied the chair. In his opening address Mr Bennett, always an eduacationalist at heart, noted a healthy return to the examinations - 22 in all - and with the increasing demand for optical services, numbers and training must be adequate because "without vision the people perish". Twenty years had passed under the original Act with the same examination system and surely now was the time to move forward. The same note of urgency and concern was struck by the 1948 president, Mr G. K. Neill of Dunedin, another stalwart of great standing and many years. With continuing return to peace-time normalcy, another factor was again apparent, National Health

Insurance, and Mr Neill emphasised that it was receiving a great deal of consideration by the Auckland sub-committee. It was an uncharted area and all constructive ideas should and would be considered. This Conference was held at Wanaka, the first Conference to be held outside the main centres. Mr Neill gave a resume of what an ideal optician should be and proceeded to criticise the level of ethics among members especially in the matter of advertising. The Institute had proposed a policy on advertising and several years had passed since the Government was asked to incorporate these proposals into Regulations under the Act. More activity was required in this area but equally importantly all true members of the Institute could well implement the advertising proposals in their everyday conduct, and then there would be no need for queries and complaints to the Executive. After all, said Mr Neill, the majority did not find a strict code of ethics any hardship and surely voluntary discipline was better than legal control.

The 1949 Conference was held in Auckland and was presided over by Mr L. A. Notley, vice-president, in the absence of the president, Mr. C. R. Martyn who was overseas. Mr Notley's address noted various features; a healthy return to good examination passes with twelve or thirteen in Section D; the presence of Mr F. Wiseman from Britain who was widely known in the manufacturing field; the perception of a subtle change in leadership. The older wise men had guided truly and well and had established immediately after the war a nursery of younger members with specalised interests and some responsibilities so that the winds of change were gently blowing. The old stalwarts had summoned up renewed energies to guide affairs through the war and then to see ahead the years of their lessened load. The younger men needed time for rehabilitation and the establishment of viable practices and that period was passing—a new grouping was occurring and it needed the blend of older experience and the vigour of youth. All this was coming to pass and optometry was the stronger.

In 1950 at Auckland, Mr H. Coutts Collett, the vice-president presided in the absence of Mr L. A. Notley, the president, whose health prevented his attendance. Mr Collett with his long history of initiative and drive, dwelt on the fulfilment of professional status; how this had been achieved in the war years and now with the C.M.T. programmes for eighteen year olds utilising the PULHEEMS System. This effectively and finally tied in the visual status to a major degree with the medical boarding decision and henceforth neither medical nor visual could be assessed individually.

So essential were the E.E. gradings that they probably caused more rejections from the higher grades than the other examinations. Competence in alloting these gradings required a high level of clinical ability and despite the growing technical demands, the education system had made no significant progress. Once again in 1951, Mr Collett presided; this time at Christchurch, over a record attendance of

59 full members. The Institute came of age—it was its twenty-first birthday. A presidential review of optometry's history was presented on this occasion and a few of the old names from the earliest days still graced the attendance list, e.g. Messrs C. R. Martyn, R. Brooke-Taylor, N. Wright, G. Falck, R. A. Batstone, T. G. Young, H. M. Bennett, W. S. Holland, G. S. Carmichael and W. S. Young. It was something of a gala occasion. A social Conference with overtones of Wanaka was held in Wairakei in 1952 with Mr W. S. Holland of Napier as the current president. The presidential office had now become a revolving one with the president frequently residing outside Wellington and the conduct of the Institute being organised with General Executive meetings twice or thrice a year for major administrative surveys whilst the Central Executive met much more frequently, at least once a month. Backed by efficient secreterial service, this system worked well and with modifications continues to the present time. Be it noted too that this year represented a change of meeting date. A February Conference was the vogue from 1930 and this Conference (1952) marked the change to October, although the financial statements were as usual rendered to the preceding December 31. The following year Mr G. S. Carmichael of Timaru, the only 1923 successful candidate, presided over the Conference which was located by the sparkling waters of Queenstown. Celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Opticians Act, attention was focussed on policy matters especially education and less on the policies of advertising. Despite criticism, the education had been sound and practical although lacking in scope and depth so that the public service was good, complaints were rare and the quality comparable with any other country. But that, considered Mr Carmichael, did not justify resting and an even more up-to-date graduate was required, maybe with a different environmental background. Thus the Conference gave much consideration and debate to education.

The Chateau at Tongariro provided the venue for the 1954 Conference under the chairmanship of Mr H. Atkinson of Auckland with an attendance equalling Christchurch three years earlier. As would be expected, Mr H. Atkinson urged "the laggards to start thinking and those that were thinking to enter into a great debate to determine the directions and status of optometry for years ahead. Once this had been achieved, then to supervise the Executive and to expect every endeavour from the Executive. The advent of dispensing houses had added a new dimension to the scene and optometry must continue to gain more and more public recognition for its own well-being. It should be every member's duty to serve the public and in turn the public would serve optometry. This co-service has developed the new name of public relations and the Conference must enter this field vigorously."

The focus of Conference activity in 1955 was at Hamner Springs with the doyen of the Institute Mr T. G. Young, in the presidential chair. He traversed the activities of the year, the resuscitation of the Clinics, proceedings on Company Trading, an unhappy period concerning the Health Department's official policy to optometry and the intervention and assistance of the Hon. J. R. Hanan,Minister of Health,the study of public relations affairs and the recognition of overseas diplomas. Yet the highlight was the presence of Mr G. H. Giles, secretary of the British Optical Association and a close friend of and co-worker with a goodly number of New Zealand opticians. His lectures are discussed elsewhere but his knowledge and breadth of vision gave the Institute new horizons and new perspective. His grand design for British optometry so largely fulfilled in more recent years, ran somewhat parallel to New Zealand needs. The local situation was ahead in some aspects but lacked the depths of technique, manufacturing or numbers to obtain full achievement. This visit was a highlight in New Zealand's story and a watershed marking the entry into new pastures and territories.

Throughout this period under review there were no major changes in legislation yet the Institute was in close liaison with the Board, and it was constantly considering means of practice improvement and also the misdemeanours of members and non-members. The earliest action in the period was the recommendation of Mr E. R. Boyd to fill the position of the fifth member on the Board as provided for in the Statutes Amendment Act (1938) as an employed optician. Canvassing by itinerant unregistered opticians was an irritant, made worse by the same activities from a very few members and the 1940 Conference strongly deprecated this activity. It was recognised that legal action was very difficult to accomplish as the Act was weak in this area. A new Minister of Health greeted a Central Executive deputation with the statement that he was not conversant with previous representations and that the house would only deal with straight forward issues. A new approach was therefore necessary to the Hon. H. T. Armstrong. An amendment was effected somewhat surprisingly, almost unexpectedly, under the Statutes Amendment Act (1942) whereby any unregistered person who sells or offers for sale spectacles in which he has employed any methods for the estimation of errors of refraction, commits an offence and is liable to a fine of twenty pounds.

Again in 1942, new regulations restricting advertising were gazetted as the Practising Opticians Regulations enforcable from 1 January 1943 (See Chapter III). Something had been achieved but the Insitute desired more stringent regulations than the Government was prepared to accept. Some confusion ensued over screen advertising and legal interpretations differed. The matter again reached Cabinet level and the ruling was to allow freedom in this aspect. Screen advertising festered as a sore point for a number of years. Minor wording changes in this period were made to the principal Act but they were machinery or clarification matters only.

Closely allied with legislation was a matter which occupied the attention of most practitioners for many years and was of grave concern. It was originally called "Corporate Practice" but soon the Institute used the semi-slang term of "Company Trading". It appeared first in 1943 in a remit from the Canterbury Optical Society presented by Mr M. W. Cholerton, which advocated the restriction of the sale of all optical appliances to registered opticians from all wholesale houses, failing which opticians in their own interest would consider alternative sources of supply. Mr Cholerton decried the entry of large corporate businesses into optometry as had occurred in Britain and Australia. The remit was lost but the Executive promised to closely study the whole subject.

The thorny question was not shelved but the pressing needs of war and manpower saw a situation of ennui develop until a letter from Mr C. J. Drake as Board Secretary revitalised the subject. The letter which summarised the various aspects very well read: "The service rendered by an optician to his client is a personal one. To do this he has undertaken the requisite training and passed the qualifying examination. He has been registered by the State and subject to the laws relating to his profession. For many years, all medical practitioners have had to accept personal responsibility for the services they render and the question has arisen whether the time has arrived for similar arrangements within your profession. I might say that in recent years a number of matters have arisen which have suggested the desirability of a change. For instance, it is doubtful if some of the provisions of the Practising Opticians Regulations (1942) can be enforced against companies. There are exisiting companies whose original principals have long since died. These companies employ registered opticians but if their advertising does not conform to the Regulations, it may be difficult or impossible to enforce the law. Furthermore unsatisfactory service may be rendered but as a servant of a company, the employee optician may well escape responsibility. I would point out that in consequence of the Dentists Act (1936) it has become illegal for companies to engage in the business of dentistry. Special provision was made, however, to enable companies existing to continue for the time being. Sections 28 and 29 are especially relevant. The Opticians Board considers the situation is one which your Institute should consider." Then followed the lengthy provisions and safeguards for existing dental companies yet with an overall long term view to their eventual elimination.

The subject was extensively debated at the 1946 Conference bearing in mind that previous discussions with the Minister were negative. He regarded the proposals as an infringement of the Companies Act. It was pointed out by members that more than one large department store would have included an optometrical department by this date had not the importation of equipment and stock been so difficult. A grave and urgent danger to personal practice existed. The other factor was that such legislation would ensure our parallelism with the legal, dental, accountancy and some other professions. Some members present expressed their willingness to sacrifice their corporate practices to eliminate companies altogether, yet reservations were expressed that opticians still dealt in stock in trade, had premises with window displays, and indulged in varying degrees of advertising. Some of the chief speakers were Messrs Peacock, Holland, Bridgeman, Young, Rose, Yorke, Barry, Hubbard, Gilberd and Cox. Finally, with some mixed opinions, Mr T. D. Peacock's motion "That this Conference considers that legislation on the lines of the Dentists Act (1936), should be introduced, the effective date if possible be that of the letter from the Optician Board i.e. 14 August 1945 and that the Conference urges the Executive to take all possible action immediately", was passed.

The Opticians Board was to meet the following day and Institute Board members were to convey the Conference motion. This had been a critical debate in that it set an attitude.

Within one year, the outlook became more complicated. The board had moved to get the Minister's acceptance of proposals akin to the Dentists Act and the Minister was favourably disposed. However, the sub-committee studying the Dental Act found that it was not entirely acceptable and amendments were drafted. All Institute members except three were agreeable to the amendments. It then became apparent that these alterations would meet with considerable opposition from within the Board. The Executive then decided to ask the Board to sponsor legislation based on the N.S.W. Act which basically and simply prevented the formation of any new companies in optometry. This new approach was presented to the Minister who intimated that he would not proceed on the lines now suggested.

The following Conference was aware of the two positions that had been propounded.

a) That as in the Dentists Act no new companies be formed and existing companies to be dissolved perhaps over a prolonged period of years and with due regard for any hardship situations or

b) That as in N.S.W. no new companies be permitted.

A referendum of all members opted for proposal (b) and this was presented to the Minister (the Hon. Mabel Howard). It did not receive a sympathetic hearing and the Minister suggested the Association prepare a good case and present it again. Later efforts met with no happy response, possibly on political philosophical grounds. So the matter largely rested for a longish time, although it was never off the agenda. Rumours and indications of department store activity in Auckland were current and it was known that the matter was investigated by them.

Years passed, not without anxiety by the majority of members but progress was stalled by a small number of members objecting and by the Minister's dissatisfaction that the Institute's proposals may not represent the opinion of all registered opticians as the Institute membership (189 in 1956) was not a complete coverage of all registered opticians. In 1956 the Institute had circularised all members and 142 replies were received as follows:—

(1)	Agree with proposals	124
(2)	Agree except for one point	1
(3)	Disagree and/or have alternatives	6
(4)	Did not return statement but indicated disagreement	6
(5)	Not interested	5

In a summary in 1956/57, thirteen members had some degree of objection, be it large all small. Later developments and a successful conclusion are related in Chapter Seven.

The National Health activities of the Government received some set-back in the war years partly from the urgency of the war struggle and partly from the fact that a deadlock existed in the primary benefit between the medical profession and the Government. It was obvious that this primary benefit must be resolved before any real consideration of supplementary benefits. It might well happen that whatever shape professional services evolved into within the Armed Forces might prove to be modus vivendi for later civilian practice. The 1940 picture therefore suggested that National Health Insurance would ultimately come; the unknown factors were when and in what form. Some introduction of pharmaceutical benefits had been effected but this was exceptional in that at the earlier time of the Hon. Downie Stewart, a minute investigation of the whole industry had been conducted, partly activated by a situation very akin to optometry's company trading. As a result pharmacy, being a licensed industry, was capable of control rather readily.

By 1943, the only development apart from speculation and rumours was that on the 1944 Labour Conference Agenda was an item suggesting the early establishment of dental and optical benefits. The inclusion in the scheme of many specialised services was mooted by the Government in 1944. To clarify where opticians were placed in these proposals, an enquiry was directed to the Minister whose reply was unclear whether they applied to services only or to the supply of appliances as well. A second letter was despatched to the Minister pointing out that a very high percentage of refractive work was in optometry's hands and requesting an assurance that due regard be taken of this fact. Other pressing events no doubt intervened and this subject sank into limbo, crucial though it might ultimately be. However, an Auckland committee had been more active and in an extensive report (1946) reviewed the political, philosophical and sociological aspects of modern health welfare especially noting the British Beveridge Plan. It was suggested that because optical benefits were now at the bottom of the list, it could not be assumed they would be the last introduced. The report proceeded to enumerate some basic rights essential for the optician e.g. the free choosing by the patient of his optician; freedom for professional skill and procedure; a fee for service remuneration; the right of practice outside the scheme and the minimum of Government intervention. The basic rights for the State should be freedom of choice for the patient; a reasonable supervision of the usage of Government monies; the right of the patient to an appliance at extra cost if such was of higher quality; full professional care as accorded privately and fair and reasonable channels of reference and decision. The report also commented on the real weakness in the Institute's postion in that it did not represent all registered opticians and any departmental negotiations must cover the whole register of opticians. It was felt that the Board in conjunction with the Institute might be able to satisfy all opticians' aspects. Further, any benefit scheme could be introduced in two ways: (a) a partial benefit embracing children up to 16 years of age and pension beneficiaries—this would hardly accord with the Government's desire for universal coverage or (b) a universal benefit, possibly the patient contributing a share thereby reducing the loading on the Social Security Fund and the discouragment of careless handling or needless examinations by the patient. The examination fee was to be based on one guinea per hour and a dispensing fee of a further guinea. The cost of materials would be assessed on average with 66% for profit, obsolescence and breakage. To give only one example of a proposed apportionment for up to Division II lenses and average frame:—

	Total	State	Patient
Frame and case	19/8	12/6	7/2
Lenses, workshop and dispensing fee	30/-	17/6	12/6
Administration charge	5/-	2/6	2/6
Examination fee	10/6	7/6	3/-
	65/2	40/-	25/2

Bifocals would be nearly double the above cost.

Much more detail covered tinted lenses, repairs, orthoptic treatment, special lenses etc., and with specialised services operating, the existing interchange with ophthalmologists should continue without disruption. It was estimated that a completely free benefit scheme would possibly cost one penny in the shilling Social Security tax.

This report was a major guideline and summarised much of the optometrical thinking and calculations. It was undoubtedly the Institute's foundation and framework for any future developments. The main presentation of this report was done by Messrs T. Peacock, H. Atkinson, P. Barry and W. Ritchie. It was subsequently suggested that the Government paid £42/- for the whole cost of contact lenses covering all corneal anomalies and high refractive corrections as was current practice.

Mr G. E. Cox gave an extensive report to the 1949 Conference on the functioning of the Optical Benefit Scheme in Great Britain which was operating as a supplementry private practice scheme but which was eventually to be translated to hospitals and clinics. The initial reference to an optician for service was only possible through a general practitioner on an O.S.C.2 Form which in later years was a major hinderance. Members at this Conference noted all this information; meanwhile, no initiative had been evidenced on the local front. A change of Government policy around this period caused less emphasis to be placed on the introduction of additional welfare benefits and the interest in optometrical benefits gradually faded away. It was to be many years before a re-awakening on this subject occured.

The financial affairs of the Institute varied somewhat over the period under review. In 1945 the income and expenditure account showed:—

INCOME	**£ s. d.**	**EXPENDITURE**	**£ s. d.**
Subscriptions	424.11.0	Audit, Bank, General	8.11. 4
Entrance Fees	8. 8.0	Secretary & Typists salaries	104. 0. 7
Interest	5. 0.2	Printing & Stationery	54.17. 7
Sundries	1. 0.0	Postages etc.	16. 1. 0
		Educ, Committee Travelling	20.18.10
		Subscriptions remitted for Armed Forces members	40.19. 0
		Sundries	38. 8. 0
		Excess Income over Expenditure	155. 2.10
	438.19.2		438.19. 2

The accumulated fund stood at £660 and this was the first year in which the new subscription of three guineas applied—the first increase since the Institute's formation. There were three Life members, 129 Ordinary members,10 Honorary members.

In 1950 the affairs of the Institute had shown some changes:—

INCOME	**£ s. d.**	**EXPENDITURE**	**£ s. d.**
Subscriptions	522.18.0	Audit, Bank, General	5. 1.11
Entrance Fees	25. 4.0	Secretarial salary	150. 0. 0
Interest	20. 9.2	Printing & Stationery	79.17.11
		Conference Expenses	84.14. 1
		Executive Expenses	88. 6. 4
		Legal Expenses	15.15. 0
		Sundries	60. 6.11
		Excess Income over Expenditure	84. 9. 0
	568.11.2		568.11. 2

There were three Life members, 169 Ordinary members, four Honorary members and eleven Associate members. The accumulated funds were £927.18.5.

In 1952 at Wairakei after many varied opinions and motions, it was finally agreed that the subscription be raised to five guineas.

The 1954 Income and Expenditure showed the following:-

INCOME	**£ s. d.**	**EXPENDITURE**	**£ s. d.**
Subscriptions	868.17. 6	Audit, Bank, General	8.11. 5
Entrance Fees	23. 2. 0	Secretarial Salary	168.15. 0
Interest	28. 2. 9	Printing, Report, Brochure	142.18. 7
Surplus on "Institute News"	27. 6.10	Conference Expenses	60.14. 0
		Educ. Tutorial Fund	200. 0. 0
		Gilberd Memorial Award	17.10. 0
		Postages etc.	32. 0. 4
		General Executive Expenses	198.10. 2
		Educ. Committee Expenses	57.19. 9
		Rent	12. 5. 0
		Sundries	35.16. 0
		Excess Income over Expenditure	12. 8.10
	947. 9. 1		947. 9. 1

The accumulated fund had now reached £1,137.10.5. There were two Life members, 185 Ordinary members, two Honorary members and 15 Associate members.

The financial and secretarial affairs were in steady hands with Mr. L. A. Notley as secretary, Mr H. S. Gilberd as treasurer and Mr H. B. Shepherdson as auditor. Mr Notley was elected to the Executive and consequently tendered his resignation as secretary. The Executive Chairman in expressing thanks for his services over the last seven years asked Mr Notley to carry on the secretaryship in an honorary capacity. It was hoped to be able to appoint a new secretary soon. During 1945, Mr C. F. Wynne, late senior secretary to the Minister of Health and a qualified accountant accepted the secretarial post. However, Mr Wynne soon found it necessary to resign because of the pressure of other duties and Mrs D. Maiden was utilised as part-time stenographer with Mr Notley resuming the secretaryship now in honorary capacity. It was in 1947 that Mr J. W. S. Gilberd was elected treasurer, replacing his father who had held the office continuously from February 1931, and in May 1947 Mrs Maiden resigned her post. The secretaryship was now an overwhelming task for Mr Notley and the Executive appointed Mr H. B. Shepherdson, a public accountant and the present auditor to the position. So commenced another long period of happy secretary-membership relationship. A new auditor was appointed in Mr D. A. Cocks. This long war and post-war period saw a remarkable continuity in these vital office-bearers whose work was mostly honorary. It was well done, the membership appreciated their labours and happily on many social occasions well earned tributes were paid.

On 5 February 1948 Henry Searle Gilberd died at his home in Wellington. He was the linch-pin of the optometrical fraternity. Thoughts on the worthy recognition of his sterling work swirled around different ideas until the Central Executive in May 1951 formally referred the subject to the General Executive meeting in September. There, Mr A. H. T. Rose moved "that a commemorative medal be struck in memory of the late H. S. Gilberd to be awarded for meritorious service to optometry." At the next meeting the following conditions for the award were presented and accepted:—

1. The award be for outstanding service to optometry.
2. The award be made at infrequent intervals.
3. An assessment committee recommend the making of an award, to be confirmed by the Central Executive Committee.
4. The recommendation be presented by way of a prepared statement.
5. The Assessment Committee consist of the President as convenor with the two immediate past presidents.

Steps were taken to have a sample medal struck and the proposals were ratified by the 1952 Conference. After Messrs E. A. Sargent, H. M. Bennett and T. G. Young had paid tribute to the memory of the late H. S. Gilberd, Mr Young moved "that contributions to the necessary fund be limited to foundation members of the Institute." This was carried unanimously. Mr H. C. Collett secured approval that the medals be struck in bronze. The first award was made at the 1954 Conference to Mr R. Brooke-Taylor. The President, Mr H. Atkinson presented the medal and citation at the Annual Dinner in a most moving ceremony.

Wellington, the natural centre of gravity for affairs optometrical was also supporting three other activities in the face of all obstacles, viz., the students, clinic, the Institute News and the library. A brief survey of each of these activities is well merited.

The Class of Clinical Instruction (how the name varied as it had no official status within the Institute's structures!), in 1939, still under the guiding aegis of Mrs S. L. Suckling, had four students for the one week's instruction in May, and nine in November with five successes. However, in 1940 wartime depradations reduced the numbers attending to two and four respectively. Mr L. A. Notley joined the instructors to replace an enlistment. The year 1942 illustrated powerfully the paucity of man-power—there were no final year candidates for the first time ever and the same bleak situation prevailed in 1943, whilst the following year two candidates passed. The school was functioning on and off at this stage depending on its need and also the availability of teaching personnel although Mrs Suckling as Director always furnished the core needs. The name now changed to the Wellington School of Optics and catered in 1946 for 21 students in Section A, 10 in Section C and a record 22 in Section D. For the D section it was possible to provide four cubicles plus a large area for objective and lecture purposes and the staff of Mrs

Suckling and Messrs Notley, R. R. Cocks, and S. H. Mayne were justly proud in achieving 15 successes - a necessary record to recoup some of the preceding lean years of recruitment. The 1947 figures reverted to more normal proportions, Section A 12, Section C 13, and Section D 12 of whom 6 were sucessful. Again in 1948 numbers were high and Mr K. W. Mills joined the staff for tutorial purposes. There was much luck in obtaining suitable accommodation for 16 students for Section D and of these 13 passed, and an Executive sub-committee was set up to explore ways of improving all aspects of Section D. Likewise at various times criticism had been encountered on the programme of Section B which, despite its shortcomings, finally produced an optician with a good mechanical ability and an appreciation of materials. Gas-soldering in the rooms of Messrs Morrison and Gilberd was always a contentious issue, as was the available selection of frames for frame fitting, yet the unique collection of defective lenses of Mr R. Brooke-Taylor illustrating almost every possible defect in a lens, attracted widespread admiration. Such were the vagaries of Section B with the added hazards of decentration, neutralisation and viva voce. Materials, workmanship and mechanical skills were the criteria which finally produced opticians capable of achieving possibly the highest standard of mechanical perfection in any country.

Not a great deal had changed in this School in more than 20 years except some modifications to try and keep abreast of modern trends in Sections B, C and D and in 1949 the long fruitful Suckling era closed with the departure of Mrs Suckling to England. Mr John Rawnsley was able to assume the responsibility for Section C but the demand on organisation, time and premises proved too great to sustain the other Sections' standards of tuition and the School was therefore in abeyance. A retrograde step in optometry's march.

So the preparation of New Zealand students struggled on with some efforts in the main centres and some assistance from the proprietors of the individual registered training establishments but results were adversely commented on by the examiners. Meantime of course, the functioning of the Melbourne course was being pursued. A silent commentary on the situation was provided by the fact that in 1953 seventeen candidates sat Section D and only four passed. However in 1954 the Clinic was restarted with much better passes and more satisfaction from the examiners. It appeared in 1955 that only a small number of students would be available in the next few years and that the financial state with fees at £25 was parlous indeed. The Director of the Clinic (Mr L. E. Newall) had put forward to the Executive a series of proposals to clarify its status and these were under general consideration. The final years are traced in Chapter Seven.

The "Institute News" under the editorship of Mr Cox and his assistant Mr F. N. Chapman continued in its newspaper form throughout the war years. It was invaluable as a means of recording wartime movements, appointments, etc. of members and conveying to everyone items of personal interest. As would be expected, its appearance became somewhat spasmodic and it would seem that it ceased publication around 1943. Popular request resulted in a committee investigation in 1946 and the 1947 Conference was informed that Mr Cox, having returnd to civilian life, was now in a position to resume the editorship. Mr J. A. Robb of Christchurch would collaborate from that city which currently had a small local publication. It was not until 1948 that an issue appeared. A new format was adopted, i.e. a booklet form to conform with modern trends and all parts of the country and local associations were asked for material. Issues were very infrequent and probably only one appeared in 1949 and none in 1950. The pressure of so many other duties centered on Wellington prevented the editorial effort and time so necessary for production. In 1953 two issues of the "News" were produced. They maintained a high standard of editorial comment, reviews and social notes whilst giving within their covers practical expression to the objects of the Institute. Justifiably, preference was given to non-technical matters as technical aspects were being adequately covered by overseas literature. Mr Cox resigned in 1954 and Mr M. W. Cholerton was appointed the new editor. An assistance committee of Messrs A. H. T. Rose and J. A. Robb was soon formed and Associates J. Atkinson, R. R. Cocks and L. N. Medlin were delegated to cover activities in the other main centres. Costs of publication in the new design and size rose considerably but the allocation of more advertising space very largely offset this aspect.

Three or four publications per year became the regular pattern; the editorial comment was always thought-provoking, each issue contained one or more articles by members; social and local items always had a place and a little pertinent overseas news was included to innoculate everyone against isolationism. Nearly all copies are held in the archives up to and after its change of name to the New Zealand Journal of Optometry in 1956.

The on-going education of members as stated in the third object of the Institute was always of vital concern. It was obvious that distances, mail difficulties, time lag and lack of personal contact prevented the close intergration of optometrical thought and experience with that prevailing overseas, especially in Britain. Much was gained by our post-graduate students imparting their knowledge on their return from overseas especially in the fields of binocular vision, orthoptics, field studies, colour vision, instrumentation etc., but the main accompanying uplift and clarification hinged round the literature. It was the era of the writen word and the enduring names of Swann, Gibson, Giles, Duke-Elder, Traquair, Peckham, Dobson, Turville, Freeman, Cantonnet and so on were known to all true students, young or old. A local book much in demand was "Anatomy and Physiology for Nurses" by Gowland and Cairney. Mr G. E. Cox was Librarian and periodically an updated catalogue was issued as a reminder and stimulus. As might be expected, additions to the Library during the war years were almost nil, and the interest was only mediocre; perhaps 35 to 55 borrowings being reported each year. At one period students were severely handicapped as no new supplies were available of Laurance's "General and Practical Optics" and also "Sight Testing" which were almost prescribed reading. An appeal to members brought forth a generous response and the twenty-four copies so received were ample for the demand. Some local Associations maintained their own libraries and also many members preferred, if possible, to purchase particular texts for their own use. It is interesting to note that Obrig's book on Contact Lenses had been ordered in late 1945 by Mr S. H. Mayne who worked with Mr Cox and so the Library functions were unaltered despite the change in Librarian. War experience produced a new volume "Ocular Prosthesis" by J. H. Prince. It was the first book published on this subject and Mr Prince was to become known in this country by his visit and lectures here in 1948 and his subsequent research emanating from California. Mr L. A. Notley became Librarian when Mr Mayne left for Suva and the library was intended to be shifted from Manners Street to Mr Notley's premises. This did not prove feasible and a triangular arrangement between Messrs Notley, Cox and Shepherdson ensured suitable purchases and the supply of books to members. In 1949 new books (6) and replacements and forward orders were a feature with Mr K. W. Mills as Librarian and an autographed copy of the first book by a New Zealand author was received viz., "Some Aspects of Oculo - Refractive Technique" by Malcolm Cholerton. The Conferences were always most agreeable to any expenditure on library needs and the prevailing desire, repeatedly, was to see more borrowing from the shelves. Around the earlier fifties some swing was apparent towards Amercian publications partly because their appearance was now more pronounced and the names of Ogle, Hofstetter, Prince, Borish etc., became known and at the same time "The Transactions of the International Optical Congress 1951" with its 45 papers comprising 493 pages was rather encyclopaedic of what was current or new and providing glimpses of a possible tomorrow. A curious feature over many years was the almost constant demand for Traquair's "Clinical Perimetry". Of course his "island" concept was captivating and clever and the interest in scotometry and perimetry was of some magnitude. The new book by Zuckerman and various other American theories seemed to have little effect on the basics. In the later period, borrowings were never heavy; hence the task of Mr Mills was more orientated to ensure the purchase of new publications so that members knew a modern book on any given subject was available from the Library. In this way the Librarian rendered a constant source of reference and refreshment.

The Centennial Exhibition celebrating the hundred years since the Treaty of Waitangi was held in Wellington in 1940 despite the onset of war. The Transport Department in its exhibit at the celebrations had designed a section for the public checking of visual efficiency, glare reaction, estimation of speed etc. The Commissioner of Transport asked the Institute Conference for a Committee to give a report on the exhibit and its usefulness. This report was in due course submitted and its practical recommendations received favourable departmental comment. At this time a standard form of certificate was available to all members for reporting the visual performance of applicants for driving certificates. No further activity was recorded until the sudden promulgation of Amendment 3 to the Motor Drivers Regulations in July 1947 which, inter alia, required and recognised a certificate from a registered optician for any applicant with subnormal vision and now incorporated the compulsory renewal of licences for all over seventy years. Strangely enough a general practitioner's certificate was sufficient for a taxi, omnibus or public vehicle driver. A comprehensive report was furnished to the Minister of Transport in 1948 on many factors of vision and driving: it was referrred to the Road Safety Council. No action eventuated except the renewed interest in road safety and vision which was generated when the Institute President, Mr W. S. Holland, was invited to address the Traffic Institute in Napier but again no further activity occurred. The whole matter was in a departmental stalemate but meanwhile an Auckland group headed by Mr T. D. Peacock who was a member of the Auckland Road Safety Council obtained publicity as did Mr P. H. Campbell politically in the Pahiatua electorate. The subject returned in Wellington when Mr G. E. Cox addressed the National Road Safety Council. The address, when made public, caused some ophthalmological reaction and no departmental action transpired when differing opinions surfaced. Meantime members quietly pursued their local duties and in a number of cases obtained representation on metropolitan, city, or district Road Safety Councils so that matters visual were not overlooked.

Essay Competition: It can be readily imagined that this competitive aspect of optometry should have a varied sojourn through these years. With over forty possible entrants already in uniform it was somewhat surprising to receive seventeen entries in 1940. A motion to suspend the competition for the war's duration was defeated yet that was exactly what happened. There was no competition during the war years and it was not until 1950 that the Christchurch Centennial Committee energetically revived the contest with a record 47 entries. The Special Centennial prizes were awarded to Mr L. E. Newall (first) and Mr R. R. Cocks (second) and the first essay prize was awarded to Mrs E. M. Wood for "Orthoptic Notes". In 1951 the Hawke's Bay and Waikato areas were victorious with the first prize to Mr W. R. Vinten. There were seventeen entries. The following year it was Auckland's turn to be the premier district with Mr W. E. Watt as place-getter. Various alterations to the competition rules were proposed by a Central Executive Committee but substanially the Competition objectives and guidelines remained unaltered. In 1954 Mr M. W. Cholerton and his committee were appointed judge so that the essays would be available for the "Institute News". Suitable essays would be forwarded on to Mr W. G. Kett as material for the Australian Journal. Thus in this year the long labours of Mr Kett ceased, and there had been only three entries with Mr S. P. Salek in first place. The next year produced six entries; Canterbury was the winning district and Mr B. D. Faulkes the individual winner.

The 1951-52 period experienced a quizzical twist in the resurgence of to and fro arguments re the term "optometrist". It had been abolished in 1928 and "optician" had gained general acceptance. It did not fit well with the newer terms of optometry and optometrical and the war usage of "Optician Unit" was a grammatical curiosity. Power did exist in the 1942 Regulations to permit an alternative description if it was approved by the Board and the Minister. Further it was contended that the term optometrist was favoured in most other countries. The matter was debated at the 1952 Wairakei Conference with the General Executive recommending the use of "optometrist" and the opposition led by Mr H. M. Bennett suggested the change was only leading to confusion. The decision was against change. However, time mellowed opposition apparently, for two years later with much the same arguments, Mr K. W. Mills persuaded the Conference, on the motion of Mr P. F. Waterhouse, to endeavour to have the word "optometrist" included in the legal descriptive terms permitted. It was the first positive step in the long haul to discard the word "optician" and this reached its final fulfilment in the 1976 Act.

Almost from its foundation the Institute had lent a kindly eye to local areas and their activities. Most areas formed local Associations, and these functioned for comradeship, local and general discussions and very often for interesting lectures. Generally they furnished the Institute with Annual Reports but they were not a formal part within the framework of the Institute. Consequently, no history of local Associations has been recorded herein. A separate treatise would be necessary. However in February 1952 the Central Executive was prompted to consider the legal implications of the formation of branches somewhat similar to those in other professions. At that year's Conference Mr J. H. Atkinson gained acceptance of a motion empowering the Central Executive to establish Branches and to make special by-laws for their management and regulation. Auckland showed such activity that a Branch, approved by the Central Executive subsequently, was formed in July 1953 and suitable rules ratified. Rule 30, later to become Rule 29, of the Institute had the following points incorporated:—

1. Approval of the I.O.N.Z. must be obtained.
2. Each Branch to consist of Institute members only.
3. Each Branch to furnish to the Central Executive a list of

members annually. A Branch was to have a general local autonomy but the General Executive reserved the right of approval or repeal of any Branch rule.

4. The General Executive could deregister any Branch.
5. A Branch could appeal to a General Meeting against any decision of the General Executive.
6. Branch remits with two-thirds membership support, could be submitted to any General Executive Meeting of the I.O.N.Z.

The Auckland formation quickly proved very satisfactory and within a year both Canterbury and Wellington had applied to form Branches and soon thereafter additional Branches were formed in Waikato, Middle Districts and Otago. A machinery sub-clause was inserted in Rule 29 whereby communications to the Opticians Board or similar bodies must have the approval of the Central Executive. Also a provision was inserted to permit retired members of the Institute to be Branch members.

It was in 1946 that the Dunedin Public Hospital held informal discussions with local members in an endeavour to finally obtain a refractionist/orthoptist on a sessional basis or alternatively as a full-time appointment. With no solution in sight, the Hospital Board advertised the position in England at a salary of £600 per annum. Mr Ron Dick, who was in London, applied and was appointed full-time. He had served overseas with "14 Optician Unit" and with a rehabilitation bursary had proceeded to England where he obtained his B.O.A. Honours Fellowship. Unfortunately this talented graduate contracted a fatal illness in 1948. He initiated a long and fruitful association for optometry with the Ophthalmology Department in Dunedin and his memory has been perpetuated with an annual prize at the London Refraction Hospital.

As mentioned previously the Institute's connection with the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (A.N.Z.A.A.S.) commenced pre-war and whilst personal representation was seldom achieved by members, many papers were read through the activities of Mr W. G. Kett in Sydney. The Institute's membership continued through the quiescent years of war and thereafter. However in January 1957, a meeting was scheduled for Dunedin and with Mr A. R. Watson as organiser, optometry presented seven papers in Section A. This meeting marked a resurgence of interest with Mr G. K. Neill as vice-president of Section A and with Messrs T. G. Young and L. N. Medlin as members of the Council.

At the November 1949 Executive Meeting a presentation of a chair was made on behalf of the Institute to Mr C. J. Drake. He had recently retired from the Health Department and with some interruptions had served as secretary of the Opticians Board for 20 years. His friendly advice and cheery nature had been much valued especially by the Central Executive.

With rising wartime prices for all materials, it was not surprising that the Scale of Charges should be discussed at the 1941 Conference. The current price-list was working to general satisfaction and the Price Tribunal was hardly receptive to much change. The Conference reiterated that the minimum fee must be five shillings, if binocular investigation was necessary then seven shillings and sixpence and any greater investigation should be half a guinea. These fees were in more or less general application. It was decided to have the basis of costing investigated by a competent authority. Mr G. Y. Berry was subsequently appointed and the Berry Report was furnished at the next Conference. Whilst in years ahead it was frequently quoted, it apparently had little real impact at the time as the Price Tribunal ruled over all things. Besides, members were not unduly dissatisfied with their remuneration and the chief effect was a Conference recommendation that all examination fees be half a guinea and a half guinea fee for services be incorporated with a reduction in material loadings. In practice not too many members changed their ways. At this time there was a sales tax on uncut lenses but representations succeeded in having all ophthalmic requirements sales tax free.Progressive members were dissatisfied with costs and charges especially with the dark spectre of National Health Insurance forever present, and a new effort was mounted resulting in an exhaustive analysis by Mr D. A. Cocks. Pay rates, overheads, depreciation, time wastage, breakages, remunerations etc., were all equated into a formula pattern and served as a basis for future reference. By 1950, the Executive considered rigid uniformity hardly desirable when charges, even if somewhat different in computation, were nearly equal in all the main centres and the factors of time and costs tended very strongly to maintain charges on a consistent level and with reasonable uniformity. The policy of laissez-faire prevailed.

The question of School Visual Hygiene had long been a vexed one. In 1941 Mr G. E. Cox held extensive discussions with the Director of School Hygiene and considerable rapport was established with Dr H. B. Turbott. To enable the Department to be kept informed, a suitable report form was drafted and this form was to be used in all cases for children so that the school had on file all the relevant data. All members were instructed to use this form and where possible to establish some contact with the local departmental doctor. Repeatedly at Conferences, e.g. in 1943 and nearly yearly thereafter, members were urged to co-operate despite any disappointments.

In 1947 the Department agreed to insert the words "optician" and "optical" where required on the form (H-Sch.1.) but this was not implemented so that the following year the Institute itself printed a form and distributed it to all members. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the functioning of the system at the 1949 Conference especially by Mrs S. L. Suckling, Messrs A. R. Watson, W. S. Holland and E. H. Grocott. Mr R. R. Cocks subsequently opinionated that primary school surveillance as it existed was insufficient and education at the secondary level was also of major importance. Nearly every year Conference listened to complaints of individual medical officers directing children away from opticians; a deputation to the Minister was favourably received but despite promises the local actions continued and the form used was not always acceptable. No official recognition was granted to these forms and it appeared that various factors prevented any improvement. Many members continued to co-operate but failing the official recognition and backing, most fulfilment and child benefit was via the optician-parent relationship.

In 1947 Mr H. S. Gilberd was elected unamimously as a Life Member. The change to the now customary Conference held in October was effected in 1952 when for the first time the February Conference was dropped and since then October has become the accepted month. It appeared to meet the wishes of members better but the accounts balancing date was not changed until 1957/58.

CHAPTER 7

THE CHANGING FACE OF OPTOMETRY (C. 1955-1970)

Consistent spadework, cultivation, and nurturing usually brings good results. There may well be setbacks, even failures, but the overall product is worthwhile. So it proved in this new period of optometry. Factors of varying nature and influence played their respective parts. Especially there was the infusion of enthusiasm with the influx of new eager post-war graduates with their fresh visions of practice management, techniques and instrumentation and public relationship.

There was witnessed a steady widening of members' viewpoints in an international way sparked off by the epoch-making visit of Mr G. H. Giles to the Hanmer Springs Conference in 1955 and his subsequent nationwide tour. He was the inspiration to much bolder thinking and acting. There was the constant guilty feeling that formal education was sadly lacking, that, whilst the standard of practice would compare favourably, New Zealand was the only English speaking country without any educational institution of an acceptable academic level. There was insufficient prestige within the Institute and the public image of the optician was not of high regard; that is public relations needed an impetus. All these factors were interwoven; one affected the other and the overall effect was far from a really desirable situation. So said an introspective assessment.

The period under review saw the usual normal routine affairs carried on with varying improvements or alterations but more especially it covered the period when years of endeavour came to fruition or in the case of legislation the chances of resolution were becoming more likely with finality following a little later.

During these years the presidency revolved at usually one or two yearly intervals and each president gave affairs his individual thrust, always in the same direction but with differing emphasis and finesse. In 1955, Mr T. G. Young had the presidential pleasure of hosting Mr G. H. Giles and his conference address traversed the current unhappy state of relationship between the Health Department and optometry, touched on the revival of the Education Clinic and expressed the need for a unified voice in public relations affairs. Mr E. H. Grocott in the following year expounded on the improvement of administration and the usefulness of involving Branches in sub-committee work wherever possible. Branch personnel required more involvement, and then more cohesion and enthusiasm must follow. This was another aspect of public relations. Two years later, Mr G. E. Cox surveyed our need as a community service, providing care for 250,000 persons per annum at a cost of at least one million pounds. This large amount came from the public and he asked whether opticians had the desirable public confidence and through that the strength to negotiate with the Government on any welfare state proposals. The same theme was developed by Mr A. H. T. Rose in 1959 i.e. that of status and the responsibilities of being one of the screening elements in the health service. The optometric conscience must be happy that it was doing its best for the public good, otherwise the word charlatan must apply. But Mr Rose felt that the advent of contact lenses, field investigation with the multiple tachistoscopic screener and education hopes all brought light to the horizon. Mr R. A. Bridgman evaluated, from his experience with the seven hundered delegates at the Ophthalmic Optical Congress in London, where optometry in New Zealand stood. He and the nine other New Zealanders present there were not dismayed. Practice here would be proud in any comparison contest despite the poor internal education facilities and the nil Government support. These internal deficiencies said Mr L. E. Newall the following year, were really a strength in disguise as standards of practice reaped so much from the general desire for betterment and the paucity of formalised instruction. The known weakness generated increased endeavour. Techniques and the newer areas of interest showed this quite strongly. Mr W. M. P. Barry in Wellington in 1963 outlined the three main facets of the Association as being legislation, education, and co-operation. The first item was still being negotiated, education was now in the process of fulfilment but he wished to see a lot more improvement in the co-operation field. So many aspects demanded it that surely it must be forthcoming in copious measures of harmony and goodwill between members, in the schools, in low vision and contact lens fields and in the introduction of a compulsory post-graduate programme.

The 1964 presidency of Mr R. J. Sargent witnessed the arrival of Dr Theodore Grosvenor and the preparation for the 1965 University Year. The year term of presidency of Mr M. A. Kitchen was marred by the futile endeavour to get some common legislative ground with the small group of optical dispensers and the subsequent abandonment of this hope. Instead it was decided to proceed with the Company Trading and Disciplinary provisions, both factors being within the optometrical household. Tribute was paid to the arrival and integration of Dr Grosvenor into the New Zealand scene and the commencement of education in Auckland. Finally within this review period, Mr K. W. Mills filled the presidency for three years of quite persistent diplomacy marking a new detente with ophthalmology and some glimpses of rapport with the optical dispensers. His long interest in student affairs and vocational guidance became matters of more moment and for the first time a presidential address introduced the new topic of shop windows. His activities extended to a visit across the Tasman to activate liaison with our Australian confreres and to enkindle interest in the forthcoming Pan-Pacific Congress. Optometry in A.N.Z.A.A.S. also came of age having been allotted a full section of its own, initially under the presidency of Professor J. Lederer.

In a broad sweep such were the successes, stalemates and disappointments of the period under review and some more detailed account will now be rendered of many of these activities. Thus some record will be preserved of the winding, twisty and rocky routes whereby destinations and decisions were reached all of which led to the reasonable status and tranquility of latter day optometry.

As everyone knows, the terms "optician" and "optometrist" were always a nice subject for debate. The early days saw the latter in the ascendancy until the advent of the 1928 Act wherein the sacrifice of the term "optometrist" was part of the price paid to obtain the Act. It would be safe say that the profession and the public showed no opposition to the word "optician" for the next twenty years or more. Gradually however, members of the Institute, perhaps especially the post-war graduates, grew to dislike the words "Institute" and "optician". The first action was a 1954 Conference motion "that the Central Executive take steps to have the word 'optometrist' included in the list of legal descriptions." The word "Institute " describes many of the world's most renowned institutions but the newer thinking liked the word "Association" as being more apt and in line with some other professional bodies. The word "optometrist" it was suggested, was more in keeping with world usage, and linked in with the increasing use of the adjective "optometrical". Oh! for a simpler shorter word. Even "optometric" is somewhat better. It can be noted that Dorlands Dictionary gives a good definition of the base word "optometry". The subject climaxed in the presidency of Mr A. H. T. Rose (1959) when Mr P. R. deLacey moved, seconded by Mr P. F. Waterhouse "That the Institute of Opticians of New Zealand Inc., be forthwith known as 'The New Zealand Optometrical Association Inc., incorporating the Institute of Opticians of New Zealand'."This motion was carried despite amendments of modifying nature by Mr J. H. Atkinson and Mr G. E. Cox. The designation change has proved to be a slow process in the optician/optometrist sector and perhaps even more so in the public sector. No publicity was mounted to educate the public and they have at times shown little relish and some wonderment at the change.

The School of Optometry or the "Clinic" finally recommenced activities in Wellington in 1954 and continued in 1955 with eleven students; the student fees being twenty-five pounds. Mr L. E. Newall was director and the name was changed to "The New Zealand Clinic of Optometry". Mr Newall retired in 1957 and a two weeks' course was arranged at Napier with Mr B. M. Bennett as director and a team of

Messrs D. Shattky, A. Grant, D. Savidge, W. Vinten and H. M. Bennett. The 1958 Clinic was held in Auckland with five students. The conduct of the Clinic was transferred back to Napier again under Mr B. M. Bennett's guidance from 1960 to 1962; no students were offering in 1963 but the Clinic re-opened in 1964 with four students. A similar situation prevailed in 1965. At that year's Conference appreciation was expressed for the willing work of the Hawke's Bay members over many years. Thus, the long awaited advent of a full University course sounded the death knell of the "Clinic", a much revered object of fun, anecdote and firm endeavour which stretched back to the distant years of Mr Edgar Suckling. It had fulfilled a noble task, it had illustrated the dedication of so many members and it produced an adequate number of competent, conscientious practitioners. It was now giving way to the long desired University course.

For many years some informal discussion had occurred on post-graduate training which had always been haphazard and fluctuating, although most valuable. So it was, that in 1968 Mr W. M. P. Barry moved that the Council should plan to have the Health Department, through the Optician's Board, organise post-graduate refresher courses and examinations in optometric specialities with a view to making a certain number of hours on such a course a pre-requisite. Such, it was pointed out, was an increasing trend in American states and it was suggested this programme would lift the overall efficiency of optometry in general and also in its specialised aspects. A full debate ensued on account of the far reaching pros and cons. The proposal was defeated largely due to resentment to the aspect of compulsion but it kept heated the pot of post-graduate education.

Another matter relating to the last two paragraphs emerged under the title of Hospital Training. A circular to all members in March 1961 advised that the Opticians Board had approved a scheme for post-graduate training under ophthalmological supervision in hospitals and any graduate of less than five years standing was eligible to apply via the Secretary of the Opticians Board. By the end of 1961, Mr D. C. Moss had been accepted by the Wellington Hospital Board and has continued with a subsequent appointment in the hospital up to this date; Mr N. G. Ritchie had been accepted in Auckland and Mr A. C. Styles had applied for a similar position at the Napier Hospital. So a start had been made in the field of hospital experience. Christchurch, Timaru and Invercargill subsequently entered into more substantive situations and in Dunedin, Mr K. Wildman was employed as a full-time refractionist. In a later period Mr G. Sanderson has been an additional appointment in the field of physiological optics and contact lenses in Dunedin. Perhaps this area of technical activity and liaison with ophthalmology never reached its full goal of achievement. Other events overshadowed it and nationwide, with the notable exception of Dunedin, it lost its initial drive and push.

Some enquiry from the Opticians Board occasioned the Institute to obtain the opinions of members on the use of the terms "D.Orth." and "Certified Contact Lens Practitioners" as supplementary qualifications of the B.O.A. A circular explaining the various aspects, resulted in members rejecting the "D.Orth." proposal by 45 to 30 and the "Certified Contact Lens Practitioner" proposal by a larger margin. The Board was informed accordingly and no action taken.

Members who were graduates of British examining bodies, were aware of and had some knowledge of the International Optical League composed at that period of British and European membership. It was resolved on the initiation of Mr R. A. Bridgman in 1961 that the Council consider the desirability of joining the League. The matter lay dormant for the rest of the period under review.

In 1963 a substantial report on sub-normal vision was submitted to Conference due to the keeness and competence of Mr L. B. Grocott and Mr P. F. Waterhouse and this report and its adoption summarised optometry's position for this period. The frequency of S.N.V. was estimated to be less than 1% of private practice patients and the majority of these had active pathological situations and about one third were senile macular degeneration. The standard treatments would be high reading additions, Lederer or similar lenses, pinholes or stenopaic slits or hand or stand magnifiers. More specialised treatment included a televue system with near adaptation, Keeler monocular magnifiers ranging from 2X to perhaps 8X, contact lenses or other specialities. A substantial measure of rapport and patience were also necessary. The optometrist was recommended to be guided in prescribing by (a) whether it was a non-progressing lesion or (b) a progressive lesion for which there was no active known treatment and (c) the patient's ophthalmologist referred or agreed to the optometrist's procedure. It was also recommended that one optometrist in each area procure and acquaint himself with all sub-normal aids and to acquaint the Ophthalmological Society officially of the possibility of inter-professional referrals. Also all optometrists were urged to adopt the policy of colleague referral whenever necessary.

As stated in Chapter Six, the Institute News changed its name to the N.Z. Journal of Optometry in 1956 accompanied by a strong exhortation from Mr M. W. Cholerton for more news and support. Usually three issues were printed each year and 1959 found the Editor again asking for a heightened interest or even criticism. A motion of full Conference support was passed in 1960 and the Contact Lens Society promised to make literary contributions. Each year showed a slight cost to the Association, e.g. in 1964 the net cost was £65 pounds. The main burden of the cost was borne by the advertisers, viz. the ever responsive wholesale houses. Mr Cholerton resigned as Editor in early 1965 and the Council appointed Mr F. J. E. Sellars in July as the new Editor with an Editorial Board of Messrs W. M. P. Barry and N. G. Ritchie and Dr T. P.

Grosvenor. The following Conference paid tribute to Mr Cholerton's ten years of dedicated editorship. Some concern was expressed the following year at the deletion from the Journal of "Letters to the Editor" and also that the new cover format was undesirable. Dr Grosvenor, due to pressure of work, retired from the Editorial Board. In 1967, the appointment of Mr Sellars terminated and the Council was recommended to seek a replacement. The next year had produced no appointment and proposals were investigated with a view to becoming a contributing part of the Australian Journal which would be circulated to members. This was narrowly defeated at Conference and the only remnant after much discussion was Mr J. D. Adam's motion that the Council investigate a once yearly production of the Journal.

Meantime, under Mr Mills's presidency, the Council had decided to cease issuing the minutes of its meetings to Branches and to certain individuals. This was not a very popular decision. However the year previous (1968) the Council had commenced publication of the "Bulletin" giving where possible more background information as well as items of a general, local, or overseas nature. This publication, without advertising, has in the course of time replaced the Journal of Optometry and it has evolved into a highly effective means of communication. Also in 1968-69, the Archives Committee was formed to publish in full the technical lectures on an annual basis and the first publication was in 1969. The present Editor is Mr J. de W. Anstice of Christchurch.

The designing and redesigning of premises was a matter of some concern to members as within this period there was much up-dating and changes of location. The 1958 Conference discussed the compilation of ideas and desiderata on this subject. The Otago Branch offered to investigate and report. Considerable investigation was pursued but a final report was not compiled.

The year 1965 saw no candidates sitting Sections A and B of the State Examinations, two candidates sat and passed Section C and the four candidates for Section D, all passed. These successes brought to a close the long standing State Examinations in Optometry. It was apparent that the Opticians Board would accept the Diploma in Optometry from Auckland University followed by a pre-registration year at the University. Tribute was paid at the 1966 Conference to the long line of examiners who had participated over many years. Much of their work was difficult and unrewarding but it contributed so markedly to the high standard of the candidates. Their endeavours, as they handed on the task to the University, had, allied with lectures and seminars at post-graduate level, contributed to the high prevailing standard of optometry, to the cohesion within the profession and to the high level of service to the community especially in the more difficult and specialised areas. The old system from 1928 or 1930 with its fragmented and inadequate facilities for education had nevertheless produced opticians of full competence. Its freely admitted weaknesses produced a back-lash of endeavour at local and national level sufficient, as Mr R. A. Bridgman said, to allow New Zealand practitioners to hold their heads high. The year 1967 saw the first graduates accredited by the examiners, Dr L. G. Bell and Mr J. A. Fairmaid, with Professor Grosvenor as Director of Examinations.

Around the early nineteen sixties, a small group, anxious for more progress in the unexplored areas of optometry, activated the Dunedin Conference to form the National Technical Group. By the following year, Mr G. A. W. Brice was appointed convener. Organisation and lines of procedures akin to research were naturally slow in maturing and within the next few years, it was apparent that the University and its staff could and should be the ground of germination for an upsurge in post-graduate activity. Hence the N.T.G. was allowed to abide.

A Union of Employers gradually came into being post-war with Mr W. J. Mountjoy as secretary. It was not very active but it did court the idea of an apprenticeship for optical mechanics. So it is that in 1954 Middle Districts Branch studied the question seriously. The advantages of more and better mechanics were obvious especially if they were trained to a nationally known standard but the great obstacle was the small and scattered number of mechanics. The Executive decided that if a scheme could not be evolved then it should draw up a schedule of training and cause employers to issue a service certificate after a specified and satisfactory period of training. Subsequently the programme was not implemented.

Whilst still surveying aspects of education or skill, it would be appropriate to record the early procedures that ultimately saw the formation of the Contact Lens Society. Apart from informal and tentative discussions, the first activity of note was the announcement by Mr G. E. Cox at the Rotorua 1958 Conference that a Committee had been formed. The following year a register had been compiled and soon thereafter the Ophthamological Society expressed an interest in the Society. The Association policy on contact lens was finally set out in 1963 as follows:-

(a) All members should be conversant with the forms and functions of contact lenses.
(b) All members should be able to insert and remove contact lenses.
(c) Referral to a suitable practitioner is a duty of all members who do not do this work themselves.
(d) A tuition course should be pressed for at the University course in Optometry and post-graduate refreshers established.
(e) The Association should keep its members constantly informed on new developments and design, and so maintain a lead for optometry in this field.
(f) A list of contact lens practitioners should be maintained for the information of medical practitioners and optometrists.
(g) There should be no “fee splitting” with referrals.

(h) To press for legislation restricting contact lens fitting to optometrists and ophthalmologists.
(i) To encourage colleague consultation as necessary.
(j) To encourage all contact lens practitioners to be members of the Contact Lens Society.

A fuller survey of the development in this specialty will be found in Chapter Eleven.

The Library under the custodianship of Mr K. W. Mills continued to fulfil its purpose for the enthusiastic minority and those requiring some specific item. Borrowings continued at a lowish level. A tape recorder was purchased in 1956 and a tape library under Mr P. H. Campbell was established. Branches and groups did avail themselves of this facility.

At this time a new Library catalogue was circulated and with Mr Mills's resignation in 1958—Mr W. S. Gates became the new Librarian. Mr J. A. Fairmaid collaborated in the preparation of a list of new volumes for purchase. By 1959, the tape machine had travelled over a thousand miles and the tape library had grown to sixteen. Both the book and tape libraries continued in reasonable usage and each made new additions. In 1965, the book library was transferred to the University as was the Auckland Branch Library. Members have the right to borrow any books from the University upon application. It should be noted that those library shelves now contain copies of rather rare publications and this will become more so as the years advance. None should be discarded. Similarly in 1967 the tape library was transferred to Dr T. Grosvenor; the tape machine was retained in Wellington.

In 1956 the McKinney Cup was won by Mr B. G. Faulkes of Christchurch with Canterbury as the winning district. The competition ceased at this stage and the Conference decided that the Christchurch Branch, the research centre, should henceforth consider the awarding of the cup to the district with the best year's achievement. Thus, came about the demise of a powerful educational stimulus which extended over more than thirty years.

In Chapter Six, there appears a short description of the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress in Dunedin in 1958 and with the rotation in location of these Congresses, this country saw another Congress in 1968 at Christchurch. Arrangements were capably handled by Mr J. J. Connor and a local committee, and the activities were fully covered in the March bulletin of that year.

In May 1954, dispensing houses were introduced in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. The ophthalmologists were actively canvassed and the Public Service Association was offered a discount scheme. The Opticians Board maintained that all dispensing should be carried out by opticians but a meeting with the Society of Ophthalmologists was unproductive of a common viewpoint despite some interesting opinions. The Conference of that year fully aired many aspects aided by the knowledge of Mr L. Harvey of Sydney. One aspect seeping into optometry's viewpoint was the need for a new approach to fees and charges. A full statement of the various points raised and a list of signatures was forwarded to the Minister of Health (Hon. J. R. Hanan). The Minister replied in March 1955 that the Government was not prepared to take any action provided the dispensing houses were rendering accurate service. Doubtless the Minister with his own professional background could perceive and appreciate the professional aspects of the submissions but he felt he could not carry Cabinet with him when the firms affected had no proven economic or professional case against them. In the following year or two a private dispenser with English qualifications commenced in Auckland, and a shop was also opened in Hamilton. Later Wellington and Christchurch saw various openings of such shops. The Board used its full powers relating to the term optician and these dispensing establishments were permitted only to adopt the term "optical dispensers". Detailed proposals for their registration and control were presented to the Opticians Board in 1960.

A subsequent deputation to the Minister along with two ophthalmologists produced general agreement to proceed with regulatory procedures provided the optical dispensers were also desirous. They, on the other hand, formed an Association of their own and finally stated that they wished to defer any negotiations meantime. In 1962 under the chairmanship of Dr Thompson, a tripartite conference was held; some progress was made and a further meeting was suggested for the following year. Legal drafting was proceeded with, although the subject of contact lens work was unresolved; and later the use of drugs, representation on the Board, and the title of the Bill presented further difficulties. By 1966, there had been little progress. Consequently the Council, the Board and the Minister proceeded with the introduction of the disciplinary provisions and those on restriction of company trading. Various minor contacts were made in the next few years and a real concern was expressed over the dispensers fitting of contact lenses with, often enough, little or no ophthalmological supervision. This was probably not in the public welfare.

A course in Drugs was commenced in 1965. The cost was three pounds ten shillings each for the 65 participating members. Mr F. J. E. Sellars and a Committee had prepared the material and Mr R. J. Sargent acted as the Wellington co-ordinator. A number of assignments were circulated but a proposed one day seminar did not come to fruition. This activity had occurred due to some membership pressure to permit the usage of drugs within the proposed new legislation.

The Association had throughout this period no defined policy on tonometry. There had been a circular from the Opticians Board stating that it was aware of the growing practice of tonometry and that it viewed such practice with caution. The Wairakei Conference of 1969 included a demonstration and also the advocacy of Professor Hirsch for its inclusion in the teaching syllabus. Mr A. H. T. Rose, a Board member said he was not aware that the Board forbade it and he thought it was a matter of adoption by non-definition. Mr H. Atkinson, another Board member, considered that the Board was hesitant to define. He felt members were free to carry out tonometry. It was noted also that the slit lamps were being used for other procedures besides that of intra-ocular pressure and contact lens fittings, and members over the years had become increasingly aware of all the implications associated with the anterior corneal surface.

Wholesale supplies proved a continuing problem throughout this period. A base figure was departmently determined in 1956 for overseas supplies and the Auckland committee under Mr W. M. P. Barry was active with the wholesale firms. By 1958 it was necessary for the Executive to make representations to the Comptroller of Customs on the stringent lens importation schedule. The next two years saw a sufficiency of lenses and frames but there was no surplus. A survey was carried out by the Customs Department in 1961, and they considered there were no drastic shortages. Some members suggested the complete freeing of ophthalmic needs from control as only sufficient would be imported to supply the true demand. At this time, even vital medical supplies were under import control. Each year saw a struggle to obtain a sufficiency and 1965 saw the advent of two frame-making companies within New Zealand and some discussion on the inclusion of frames within the NAFTA Agreement. It was noted around this period that the importation of spectacle frames was suffering at the expense of sunglasses which were in the same Item Code Number.

The 1966-67 Import Schedules showed reductions in all aspects and direct representations to the Minister were imperative. This resulted in increased allocations and the Ministerial interview also offered the opportunity of asking for new Item Code Numbers to differentiate the various categories. This was achieved the following year. The following year also saw lenses freed from all control—a very sensible and long-overdue procedure. Frame supply continued to be difficult and there were complaints of locally made frames being deficient in finish and range of styles or measurements. Devaluation also had an adverse effect on the imported quantity. As the Comptroller recognised this factor he promised additional licence to cover firm orders. The frame allocations continued on a shaky year-to-year basis and it is interesting to note Professor T. P. Grosvenor advocating the local manufacture of the "John Lennon" type frame in square and oval shapes! Meanwhile the N. Z. Optical Wholesalers Association had been formed which, with a goodly measure of trust and confidence within, was able to liaise with the Association and present some unanimity of approach to the Department.

Wellington and Auckland, with their larger industrial complexes started to show involvement in industrial vision. In 1954 and 1955 Conference discussions ensued on procedure and the general attitude, especially in Auckland, was that any initiative should come from industry. Mr G. H. Giles stated that in Britain, the initiative might come from either party. From this period onwards a constant watch was kept on developments in Britain, America and Australia. In 1959, a sample screening of 25 men at the Otahuhu Railway Workshops was requested. These men were fully examined, prescribed for and fitted with a semi-library frame with toughened lenses. Auckland favoured the programme being carried out at Branch level whereas in Wellington the work was on an individual basis. The Association bought a Bausch and Lomb Orthorater for hire to a branch or any individual. Mr Barry Cole's lectures on Industrial Optometry (1960) were helpful as was the Auckland prepared guide on "Industrial Optometry". Mr L. E. Newall was appointed as consultant/organiser to the Railways Department with a panel of twenty-seven optometrists widely spread to cater for about 4500 employees. The scheme was designed to cover safety and efficiency aspects, visual screening and full examination. Subsequently an analysis showed that 500 men required corrective spectacles. By 1963 there were conflicting viewpoints on management and control and in that year a meeting was held of all optometrists involved plus three speakers from outside interests. The Association published a handbook covering ethics and guidelines. A notable feature was the entire dependence on "the fee for service" principle without any profit basis. The Labour Department and safety equipment suppliers were provided with a list of optometrists interested. A pilot safety scheme in the Ministry of Works was started at Lower Hutt and subsequently the State Services Commission directed the Departments of Agriculture, Civil Aviation, Defence, Education, Electricity, Forestry, Printing Works, Health, Justice, Maori, Marine, Mines, D.S.I.R., and Works to provide at departmental expense the supply of prescription spectacles where "eye danger areas" existed. A little later the Council accepted the Industrial Fee Schedule to be applicable in the above departments. Mr J. G. Watson was appointed as the liaison optometrist with the Ministry of Works which had developed a National Eye Protection Scheme. The schedule was: examination fee $3.00, hourly rate on visit to workshops $6.00, full cost of lenses, frame and case plus 10%, visual screening at rooms $1.25; dispensing fee—single vision $4.25, bifocals $5.25, plus fitting fee. Appointments of optometrists was under Branch recommendation and proceeded smoothly.

The number of private industries making direct use of optometrical services continued to grow and these arrangements were normally on a private basis. During 1969, the Post Office commenced a scheme using optometrists selected by the Department. Initial difficulties were encountered but the problems have been somewhat resolved. The fee structure was firmly based on: examination fee, dispensing fee, fitting fee and cost of materials plus 10%. For Government work those fees have been renegotiated several times by Mr H. C. Russell in relationship to inflation and to maintain some relativity to medical services. The basic yardstick negotiations were in 1970.

For normal optometrical practice fees and charges were always of importance. Opinions differed widely. Practices differed widely. Even a more than nominal examination fee was too radical for some. The influence of the post-war graduates helped to formulate a better approach. The tail was always inclined to wag the dog. Even in 1957, the Institute was still struggling to reach agreement on a sound principle to be adopted and developed as the approved official system. The Auckland Branch presented a report and it was circulated as a policy statement; Mr J. H. Atkinson was the chief architect. Endeavours followed to reduce the formula to simple practical application. The response for practice information from members was poor and thus an adequate basis for calculating schedules did not exist. It was then felt that a public accountant should undertake the work on a national basis (Waterhouse 1960). So it was in 1961 that Mr Kay who had had experience with a British Medical Association investigation was commissioned to conduct a national survey for a fee of two hundred pounds. Members were generally unresponsive. In collaboration with Mr J. H. Atkinson's Auckland Committee, Mr Kay pressed on and produced his report. The following is an abbreviation of its practical application.

1. Exam Fee when glasses not prescribed 26/8
2. Basis when glasses prescribed 63/4 to which is added
    - (a) cost of lenses fitted
    - (b) cost of frame plus 50%
    - (c) cost of case plus 50%
3. Doctor's prescription, second or duplicate pair less 26/8 from item 2.

All labour charges were calculated at 26/8 per hour e.g. a new frame would incur the cost of frame plus 50% plus 13/4 labour (half hour).

All other items and sundries were to be based on the above or similar determinations. Auckland led the way as always in this area and obtained approval at the 19th Conference that their Branch fees and charges be considered for adoption as a national fee schedule. However the attempted implementation produced repercussions. The Department of Industries and Commerce considered that this schedule probably contravened the Trade Practices Act. Legal opinion confirmed this. The Council was therefore obliged to withdraw the schedule and agree to refrain from similar future proceedings. The Council could, at most, set out methods of computation and leave each practitioner to do his own calculations. Some articles appeared in the Bulletin from individual members giving their methods of computing fees and charges and it was ruled that this publicity did not impinge on price fixing. It was found in 1969 in a sample survey that 10 practices charged $5.00, 20 practices $6.00, 3 practices $7.00 and 10 practices $8.00 or over as an examination fee. The whole subject was still not resolved on a sound basis—there was the rearguard, there was the advance guard and there was a goodly number of hoi-polloi in between. Ideas and approaches continued to be somewhat varied and ill-defined. Even today a state of uniformity has not been reached and it may be debated whether this is fully attainable or even desirable.

Everyone knows now, in these Jubilee times, the outcome of the years of struggle on the dreadfully named subject of "Company Trading"; its legislative provisions and its eventual disappearance from any agenda. Yet the story of its involutions, convolutions and indeed its convulsions made real history and the early stages have been related in Chapter Six. As stated before, by 1957, with much canvassing, the opinion poll was as follows:-

Agree to proposals	124 members
Agree to proposals with slight explanations	1 member
Disagree or have alternative ideas	6 members
Disagree but did not return statement	6 members
Not interested	5 members

This was a response of 142 members from a membership of 189. The Dunedin Conference moved to instruct the solicitors to draw up proposals and the Central Executive must obtain a 90% membership approval before proceeding further. Mr G. K. Neill and Mr T. G. Young stressed that no unfairness must be imposed on any company. The proposals, as they evolved, to cover newly discovered circumstances, were considerably more lenient than the 1936 Dentists Act. One year later the self-imposed 90% approval provision had been obtained after much toil and almost tears. In fact, only 7% of all registered optometrists were in disagreement and in July 1959 the proposals were submitted to a non-committal Minister. By 1961, it was apparent that the new Minister of Health, Mr N. L. Shelton, had little sympathy with the proposals and failed to appreciate the ethical principles involved. Some lobbying of individual Members of Parliament ensued in the hope of improving the ministerial response. In the following year, the Conference by telegram expressed its deep concern to the succeeding Minister, Mr D. N. McKay and to the Attorney-General, Mr J. R. Hanan; an astute and understanding ally. This procedure with further representations in April 1963 pushed the proposals to caucus which asked for written endorsement from some southern opticians. More lobbying of individual members occurred and finally Mr K. J. Holyoake stated that the proposals could not be enacted in the 1963 session. No worthwhile political progress had been achieved.

Hereabouts the Company Trading proposals were amalgamated with new disciplinary provisions and the regulation of optical dispensers by both the Board and the Department of Health but an impasse was reached in late 1965. It was therefore decided to proceed with disciplinary and company trading matters, leaving the optical dispensers aspect unresolved. Thus on 7 October 1966 an Amending Act was passed incorporating company restrictions which have been abbreviated in somewhat sketchy fashion as follows:

A company carries on the practice of optometry if it employs anyone practising optometry. It may lawfully practise if it has been doing so for at least one year. The company's right shall cease within twenty years of the elimination of all members of the company as constituted on the legislative date with some saving provisions for widows, widowers, legatees etc. The Registrar shall keep a register of companies empowered under this amending Act.

Thus after so many years, the final enactment came quite swiftly, almost unexpectedly, and the dark clouds of company trading were swept away. Optometry could pursue with security its course of individual, partnership or associate practice. This major achievement will forever be linked closely with the name of Mr K. W. Mills who amongst many others laboured long and persistently at this very difficult, intricate and personal problem. The guiding hand of the Minister was also a considerable factor especially in the legislative processes. There would be no new companies in optometry and over a prolonged period of years the existing companies would cease but without hardship to any company, its members or their kith and kin.

The field of internal affairs will now be abandoned to survey optometry in its public relations or external field with a return to administrative and monetary aspects concluding this chapter. Public relations might well have been the life-blood of optometry from the Institute's foundation but the 1955 Conference asked for a Public Relations committee to glean information, to disseminate information and to activate members in the ways and means of educating the public. The committee of Messrs G. E. Cox, R. R. Cocks and P. K. Heginbotham surveyed the subject and reported some local activities. Little major activity took place and Mr E. H. Grocott experienced, in succeeding years, a continuing frustration in launching any major project. Mr Grocott's presidency saw the allocation of the position of P. R. Officer to Mr L. H. Hopley who used the wide experience of Mr P. R. de Lacey in the field of finance and member participation. A frame levy scheme was propounded in 1960, but a voluntary effort produced about £600 which enabled the Central Executive to approach a professional public relations firm viz, Messrs S. G. Dinniss and Associates. It was clearly stated that any activities must not be capable of being construed as advertising. Voluntary donations reached one thousand pounds and Messrs Dinniss were able to use daily and periodic papers for prepared articles. Waiting room material was produced and the pamphlet "Facts about Your Eyes", was especially popular. Another pamphlet was on T.V. and Vision. The Auckland radio studios produced under Mr W. M. P. Barry's guidance a useful programme. It was broadcast over the YA and YC stations and was entitled "Optometry as a Career". The P. R. committee was always encouraging local members to use local avenues and local gatherings if requested. In 1963 following a lengthy address by Mr G. S. Dinniss, the Conference appointed him the Public Relations Officer under the control of the Council. Later new pamphlets on Glaucoma, Contact Lenses and Lighting were prepared but not printed. Meantime finance was a problem and slowly the Association was exploring various procedures such as levies, voluntary donations, stamp purchase, etc., so that by 1966 a scheme had evolved to be financed by a 1% levy on purchases of optical supplies; after much negotiation it was ruled that this levy would be exempt from taxation. About 66% of members agreed to participate but there were quite a number who still had a fear of blatant advertising. Implementation of the scheme commenced in 1968. Within a year, 8,000 copies of "Optometry" had been distributed to members, and 5,000 to vocational guidance officers. More attractive advertisements had been placed in the Students Digest and some in the dailies. Some newspapers readily accepted articles prepared by Dr J. R. Gregg of California. Pamphlets displayed in a specially designed case, on "Vision and Road Safety", "T.V. and Your Eyes", "Good Light Aids Good Sight", "Care of Spectacles", "Bifocals" and "Looking at Lenses", were available free for each waiting room. Two films were in the process of procurement. The G. E. Cox Memorial Lecture by Dr Munroe Hirsch had been arranged and attendant media coverage was organised. The recent visit of Mr Burnett Hodd of London was used for radio purposes.

The income from the levy was about $9,000 and the account approximtely balanced. So the programme continued with about 70% of membership support. There was always some element of doubt and criticism which was often ill-founded but overall the P.R. programme had a healthy influence on the objectives of:-

(a) Student recruitment and assistance
(b) Public awareness of the importance of good vision
(c) Elevation of the status of optometrists

The functions and general arrangement of the Executive, be it Central or General, remained in very broad outline unchanged. Mr W. M. P. Barry proposed that the Central Executive be replaced with an eleven member General Executive to meet at frequent intervals. This had travelling and cost difficulties and it was resolved that substantially the present system continue with permanent committees on certain topics, e.g. education, publicity etc., and other topics be Branch responsibility for research and report. By 1960 an investigating committee recommended:-

(a) A Central Executive of six members
(b) A General Executive (i.e. the Council) of 12 or 14 members
(c) The Council be determined on an electoral basis for a two year term.

This constitution was substantially adopted; a Central Executive of six all within a radius of 30 miles of Wellington; three councillors from the remainder of the North Island and three from the South Island. The president and vice-president were to be elected for one year. These changes were incorporated in a complete redrafting of the rules which were approved at a Special General Meeting in July 1962. These rules incorporated a complete new Rule 19 detailing a Disciplinary Committee of three members.

Usually three or four Council meetings were held each year and about eight additional Central Executive meetings. In 1969 the membership which was a fair reflection of the whole period was:-

3 Life members
188 Ordinary members
4 Honorary members
12 Retired members
3 Overseas members.

At no stage had the ordinary membership exceeded two hundred. A brief glance at the Income and Expenditure Account for 1969 showed the steady rise in costs.

INCOME (in dollars)		**EXPENDITURE** (in dollars)	
Entrance Fees	17.00	Audit Fee	50.00
Interest	289.00	Report and Annual Meeting	296.00
Subscriptions	4563.00	Council Expenses	812.00
		Depreciation & General	92.00
		Income and S.S. Tax	104.00
		Printing & Stationery	496.00
		Postages, Tolls etc.	131.00
		Rent	268.00
		Secretarial Salary	916.00
		Scholarship	600.00
		Education Committee Expenses	658.00
		Sundries	97.00
		Excess Income over Expenditure	349.00
	4869.00		4869.00

The subscriptions had been raised to ten guineas at the 1955 Hanmer Conference on the motion of Mr W. M. P. Barry. Again, in 1964 a further increase to twelve guineas was approved.

CHAPTER 8

RECENT YEARS

The 40th Conference of the Association in 1970 was addressed by the Chairman of the Opticians Board, Dr H. J. H. Hiddlestone, who traversed the main topics concerning the Board and commented favourably on the University course despite its location in sub-standard quarters in a converted residence. He surveyed the Code of Practice and Professional Conduct which the Board intended to be a realistic guide to the profession. His personal interest in optometry was evident.

Mr H. C. Russell in his presidential address expressed his appreciation of the presence of Mr J. D. Adam at Council meetings thus ensuring that Auckland and University affairs were presented. The recent alteration in the rules provided that Auckland would henceforth always have a representative plus three other North Island members, three from the South Island and six from the Wellington area to form the full Council. Tribute was paid to the retiring chairman of the Central Executive, Mr K. W. Mills—his work on the Executive had covered 20 years. Mr Russell also deprecated the continued use of the word "optician" and advocated more attention by the Council to the elimination of "shop windows". This subject was developed further the following year in the opening address by Dr D. P. Kennedy, the Director-General of Health, who in his inimitable way referred to his close relationship with, and high regard for optometry within the 2 N.Z.E.F. in the Central Mediterranean. Mr Russell, continuing his presidency in 1971, mentioned progress in the negotiations with the dispensing opticians, the appointments of visiting optometrists to the Wellington and Hutt Hospitals, the fourth year as part of the Auckland Diploma and some progress in the disappearance of shop windows. Again in the following year, the president noted further progress in the elimination of shop windows and the increasing usage of the word "optometrist" in accordance with the decisions of the 1969 and 1971 Conferences. A film was produced in Auckland dealing with "the work of an optician", to quote the words of the Listener. Despite great care that it should give no offence, there was adverse ophthalmological reaction, although in southern centres commendation and appreciation applied. Overall its screening had been very useful and informative.

In 1972, in the picturesque setting of Queenstown and under the new presidency of Mr A. C. Styles, Dr Hiddlestone, now Director-General of

Health, gave an inspiring address entitled "Whither Optometry". Amongst his amusing parables, he emphasised two necessary concepts, first motives and aspirations and then good public relations. Both applied to all professions. Mr Styles in his presidential addresses of 1973 and 1974 reviewed and advocated more interest in road safety, especially the habit of driving with headlights on during the daytime. He also reviewed his time-consuming tours throughout the country to obtain and maintain personal contact with nearly all members. These journeys demanded much sacrifice but they were truly appreciated by members, especially those in the smaller cities and towns. Much piercing and pungent comment came from Mr L. B. Grocott in his 1975 address. "Perhaps the profession was safe, secure and sometimes somnolent. We are big fish in our little pool; but outside this little pool is a big world, a bit mishapen, distorted, and alien, but its presence is the overwhelming fact of life: a little scaring by predators may be stimulating. So the Council has been investigating the creation of a planning committee. It might well study the information and decisions required for the future." As H. G. Wells had intimated in "The Shape of Things to Come".

The 1976 Conference was opened by the Hon. F. Gill, Minister of Health, who traversed the history of optometric legislation and was able to report that the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Bill of 1976 had passed the select committee stage wtih amendments and the final parliamentary passage was imminent. He was also congratulatory concerning the Association's continued interest in preventive education and care relating to vision. He recalled the slogan of World Health Day 1976—"Foresight Prevents Blindness". From this situation, Mr Grocott developed his concepts of optometry in the future. He felt that his recent teaching and touring sojourn in America and Britain had altered his thoughts and outlook. The professions were under attack overseas and no longer were they regarded as beyond reproach and guarded by ethical standards. Some attackers regarded ethical standards as a rampart for privilege, privacy and perhaps profit. He asked how members' standards and services interlaced with public need and assessment, with the great health care organisation of medicine and in particular with ophthalmology. All this and more needed surveying: he felt that breathing space was available now to look ahead.

Sir Randal Elliott from his several vantage points, especially as past president of the New Zealand Medical Association, continued the soul-searching process in 1977. He wanted to know the relative virtues of eye care as opposed to children's health, hearing etc., and he was sure the means were not available to impose a full health system over the whole area. For instance, cost-wise should the option be for: (1) eye care in the hospital system, (2) in the private sector, (3) a combintion of 1 and 2, (4) was it better to have more practitioners and less equipment or, (5) the opposite of 4? He was sure public relations and more community care would have to come in many areas including optometry. He had no details; he was really thinking aloud but he invited co-operative talks to which the new president, Mr D. C. Moss, warmly responded. In developing this subject further, Mr Moss dwelt on the cordial relationships within the profession as shown to him in his tours and contacts throughout the country, the improved situation in ophthalmalogical relationships both in hospital work and on a personal basis, and the liaison with the Fees Committee of the N.Z. Medical Association. He proceeded to detail his contacts and discussions with Australian confreres and the recent association with the International Optometric and Optical League. He also realised optometry's contact with the Public Service must grow; members would need to help this "major growth industry" see clearly not only in their work but in their relationship to the profession. The public too, the great customer, must be catered for. He must be fully satisfied. The Association's complaints committee must be almost a public entity and the increasing demands of consumerism must be met. Be alive and ahead, or fall behind and lose the battle was becoming the real issue. Look too, suggested Mr Moss, to our multiracial society and especially our major minority, the Maoris, and in a wider sphere, to the South Pacific basin, where Council had initiated a preliminary survey.

The 1979 Conference was the occasion of Mr Moss's final presidential address in which he surveyed the full acquisition of accepted professional status; the parallel attainment of good academic achievement; the functioning of the 1976 Act; the passing of shop windows; the new code of ethics; developments in industry and hospitals; clinical improvements; the constant watch on driving efficiency and the field of multifocal, protective and photochromic lenses. He also directed attention to this being the International Year of the Child and the needs of the South Pacific basin. Associated with this address, was one given by Hon. G. F. Gair, Minister of Health, traversing the need for a wide outlook, the dangers of over-supply of optometrists or ophthalmologists and the demands of the new technology in its social, nervous and visual aspects. He congratulated optometry on its full programme of tertiary education at a time when most para-medical groups were only now getting out of service training. He mentioned also the need for prophylaxis and illustrated this by stating that eye pathology and treatment accounted for 20 percent of the Wellington Hospital Board patients—the third commonest disability. All contributions to a reduction in these figures were most welcome.

The third member of the triad of eye care speakers and thinkers at this conference was Dr C. R. Fenton who described the large fields of mutuality of interest and the complementary functioning of the two professions of ophthalmology and optometry—their harmony was a tribute to good sense, trust and respect. Both professions needed to watch carefully the dangers associated with any over-supply of new graduates.

The Public Relations fund in 1969 realised $9212 from 95 practices. The outgoings in the same year were mainly pamphlets $1675, Students Digest $285, Information Bulletins, scholarship presentation ceremony $700, which with sundries left a balance of $5909. Much publication was done, e.g. 8,000 copies of an attractive booklet entitled "Optometry", some copies of which went through the vocational guidance section of the Education Department; "Facts about Vision and Road Safety", 120,000 copies (mostly distributed through the Transport Department); "Television; and Your Eyes", 50,000 copies, many of which were delivered with each new T.V. set, "Good Light Aids Good Sight"; 20,000 copies; "Care of Spectacles", "Bifocals" and "Looking at Lenses", 20,000 copies of each of these were destined for distribution through members. A suitable display unit was designed to hold and publicise these pamphlets in each waiting room. Appreciating that many members were sensitive about the use of radio and television, the Association moved cautiously in this area. Advertising in the careers supplement in newspapers and in the Students Digest was vigorously pursued and several of the above pamphlets had supplementary publications in the following years, so that in 1970 with the consultants' fees, etc. at $2,000 and many more activities including $1400 for Drs Hirsch and Floms, the fund decreased somewhat. The Conference, like the membership generally, had divided ideas on what Mr S. G. Dinniss should be doing. Ideas such as asking for a new film, for more direct action, for more research, for a P.R. switch towards the Government departments, and for partial or total abandonment were all aired but regardless a motion expressing satisfaction was passed. At least there was much activity to justify the 1% levy.

Some months later, the film "Eyes on the Road" was distributed to the Transport Department and it obtained widespread screening from the departmental officers. Another film was being prepared with emphasis on eye care and the role of the optometrist. The Department of Health and the National Film Library were interested enquirers. The 1971 Conference saw Mr K. R. Shanks (Treasurer) move that the P.R. levy be reduced to one half of one percent as from July 1972. Some quite expensive items were not recurring and the motion gained approval. The film, "Two for a Lifetime", made its appearance in 1972 and it was telecast over all four T.V. stations and was widely accepted by members and also by the Film Library. Approval was not quite unanimous—there were a few critics. The distribution of pamphlets continued on a remarkable scale, for example, in 1973, 150,000 more pamphlets were printed; most were revised and an old one "Facts about Your Eyes" was re-used. Also at this time, the Health Department had published its own folders on "Glaucoma" and "Cataract" of which 20,000 were distributed to practices. These were very useful in the sphere of public education. The booklet "Optometry" had been re-designed at a cost of $1500 and the Dental Association had evinced a keen interest in it. Mr Dinniss relinquished the P.R. office in favour of his son Mr Phillip Dinniss.

Perhaps it is a digression but in 1974 the Association assisted in the preparation of an article on optometry fees and spectacle costs by the Consumers' Institute. The article dealt with the subject in a very fair and objective manner and reached a large reading public. The four page article covered such topics as: who needs spectacles,common eye disorders, who should you consult, choosing frames and lenses, contact lenses, the complexities of lenses and their costs, the procedures available for complaints, a warning against chain store spectacles, an exhortation for regular examination as good sight and efficient spectacles have no substitute. Prior to this comprehensive review of optometrical services, the Consumer had published in 1972 a survey of contact lenses, based largely on a survey by the British Consumer Association of some 2,000 wearers. The results were all pleasing enough except the highlighting of the fact that wearing and handling instructions were perhaps somewhat difficult to grasp and more especially that after-care should be more efficient. It was indeed illuminating that an independent assessor, viz., Consumers' Institute, should thoroughly survey these professional services and deliver to the public a comprehensive resumé devoid of any major criticisms. Around this time, some other professions were similarly analysed and reviewed.

It was determined in 1974 that the public relations levy be replaced by funds coming from members' subscriptions. Thus disappeared a funding arrangement which had fulfilled a great need and which really set public relations alight, yet was never universally acceptable—it seemed nearly every member had a different viewpoint and the consensus bond was not quite strong enough. Thus the 1975 Conference found need to raise substantially the level of subscriptions. The entrance fee became $10, the annual subscription $105, new graduates $52.50, retired or student members $3 and Hospital Board or Government employees $70. A T.V. filler film of 40 seconds duration costing $1,000 was produced, and it received extensive prime time use. In this year other public relations activities amounted to about $3,500. Pamphlets were in continuing demand; they were redesigned as required and two new ones produced, viz., "About Sunglasses" and "Getting the Best from Bifocals".

With the passing of the 1976 Act, much consideration ensued at the following Conference on the necessary change to "optometrist". Previously this term was optional; now it was obligatory. Opinions varied widely on how much public relations should be activated to effect this. The debate was inconclusive—it would come about but it might be slowed by the intermingling of terms within the Act and by the title of the Board. Mr K. W. Mills summed up the discussion by declaring that the Council would battle on and in time persistence would have the desired effect.

Expenditure continued to climb, e.g. Consultants Fee $1479, Pamphlets $3959 (much reprinting and updating), Careers Advertising $836, Side Effects of Drugs $959, Overseas Lectures $500 etc.

A notable achievement occurred in 1972 when, for the first time, the ordinary membership reached 200. In 1950 it was 169, in 1960,187, and in 1970, 184. It had been almost stationary for 20 years or more. The influence of the University output was becoming apparent and even later, in 1979, the figure had reached an all time high of 230. Likewise the retired list at 16 in 1970 had grown to 35 in 1979.

With the slow but steady growth in numbers, attention must be focussed periodically on the man-power needs. The situation in the last ten years has become more controllable and Council, following in the footsteps of Professor T. P. Grosvenor and Mr W. M. P. Barry's survey in 1965, commissioned Mr V. H. Nicholls to investigate. His survey was completed in 1975. It was comprehensive and revealing. Only a few items from it are recorded here.

Ratio of Optometrists to Population:	1960	1965	1970
	1/9,400	1/11,660	1/13,584

The last ten years had produced 52 new registrations and the total of full and part-time registered practitioners was 228. The last ten years showed 51 losses so with half a million more people there was a gain of only one optometrist. Distribution of services also varied greatly from the Dunedin ratio of 1/10,845 to Marlborough with 1/33,430. Thirty-eight Dip. Opt. holders were practising, two were not working, four were overseas and one was a University lecturer at the end of 1974. The University records showed that 54 graduated from the 61 entrants over the first eight year period. Eight graduates were females. From 1975 onwards, a graduation figure of nearly twelve per annum could be expected.

The Department of Health,using 1976 data, also issued a review of man-power. Annual practising certificates were taken out by 257 optometrists, but applying man-power data cards and other assumptions, it was estimated that the practitioners numbered 240-250. Some did not have full-time working equivalents so that the nett full-time work force was around 225 including 11 females. This bore a close relationship to Mr Nicholl's work one year earlier.

Apart from eight Australian qualifications, all the other overseas qualifications were British. 77% were engaged in general optometry, 21% in general optometry with contact lens emphasis; 72% were self-employed in private practice and 17% were employed. Industrial optometry was a variable component in some practices. Ten persons had hospital board part-time work whilst two were engaged in hospitals full-time. Much more information can be obtained by a full study of both surveys and the figures in some categories can vary quickly especially in those with a geographical component. Viewed broadly and generally, a major easement in optometry's requirement has occurrred in recent years and it could be that the entrance of twelve to the Auckland School per year may be close to ideal. In any case man-power has continued to be under periodic scrutiny and the intake level can be varied somewhat if required.

Consistent with an unidentifiable increase in "output" per optometrist with improving techniques, instrumentation, management skills etc., and the highly inflated values now placed on responsibility, the Association was obliged to review all aspects of professional liability. It had been an area within all professions of no great concern for many years post-war. A group insurance scheme covering professional liability and occupiers' liability had been a self-balancing financial item very largely administered in all its technicalities by Mr H. B. Shepherdson since 1950. Around 1965, contact lens practitioners felt obliged to enter into new contracts to cover the much increased liability of this specialty. By 1972, realistic cover was very difficult to obtain and finally the Phoenix Assurance Company agreed to increase its maximum cover to $100,000 provided half the membership accepted this increased cover. This was so and the remaining members elected mostly to retain their old cover which was often $20,000. The premium rates negotiated were very favourable compared with those for other professional bodies. With the commencement of the Accident Compensation Act in 1974, it was decided to appoint Messrs Adam and Adam as the Association's insurance brokers. This firm negotiated new professional liability cover at very favourable rates. This was available up to double the previous amount and it was underwritten by three companies. Some 82% of members availed themselves of the new scheme. All these activities highlighted the increased importance of insurance cover for professional work.

The N.Z. Superannuation Fund was researched about 1973/74 and no alternative scheme was recommended or promoted at that early stage. This matter received new emphasis with the political change in 1975. The main change, in 1977, was the obtaining for members of an "inflation proofing plan" offering a 10% annual increase in cover for Section 4 (Sickness, Accident etc.), from the Phoenix Assurance Coy.

For many years the Southern Cross Medical Care Society had operated a group scheme for members covering surgical, medical or hospital cash plan programmes. Many members joined and paid their premiums which were offered with a 10% reduction to the Society. The possible financial advantages of Medicare and the closer linkage with medical care were discussed at the 1975 Conference. Investigation but no action was taken and in 1977 the Southern Cross Society announced a 20% increase in Group benefits. The inclusion of specialist initial examination fees ($18.00) and subsequent visits ($10.00) was noted. The Conference was aware that optometric benefits of any kind were of a much larger, more costly and widespread nature, and remained outside this Society's new benefit structure.

The evaluation of the Fees and Charges structure continued. The two Hirsch based articles in the 1969 Bulletins were opinion-forming but members' procedures changed slowly even under pressure. The Association was warned by the Trade Practices Division of Industries and Commerce Department to refrain from any specific fee recommendation. By 1971, the Ministry of Works granted an improved schedule of fees, the Armed Forces followed and finally the State Services Commission approved such for all Government departments. The great anomaly arose that some members did not assimilate these fee implications and more particularly apply some appropriate and similar modifications to their private patient fee structure. Members were repeatedly directed to the Hirsch system and to assess all their charges on a fee-for-service basis. By December 1973 the State Services Commission had approved the following:-

Examination Fee	$6.00
Dispensing Fee S.V.	$6.80
Dispensing Fee Bifocals	$8.40
Fitting Fee	$1.80

The following year produced an increase of 10% on those fees, and these increases were consistent with those granted to medicine. This was the era of the White Paper on Health which was causing much soul-searching in all health care professions—the furore was to abate as time passed.

A small difference in scale fees was promulgated in late 1975 but more importantly liaison in this area was being developed with medicine. The advent of metal frames and differing departmental maximum allowances for frames was the cause of some confusion. Also the question of whether a metal frame constituted a safety frame varied from member to member, from country to country and from department to department. The Accident Compensation Commission had had as yet no reason to adopt any stance.

After a prolonged price freeze, a new scale of fees was fixed, with effect from April 1978. Annual reviews were to follow. More emphasis was placed on the examination fee and a separate tonometry fee was introduced. In all this, the Medical Association had been very helpful and supportive. The new rates were $15.00 per hour or on an individual basis:-

Examination Fee	$9.25
Dispensing Fee S.V.	$8.00
Dispensing Fee Bifocal	$10.00
Fitting Fee	$2.40
Materials	Cost plus 15%
Tonometry	$1.00

Inflation continued onwards and upwards. The 1979 review of fees and charges were not published until November and they reflected the economic conditions prevailing.

Examination Fee	$10.60
Dispensing Fee S.V.	$8.80
Dispensing Fee Bifocal	$11.00
Fitting Fee	$2.60
Tonometry	$1.10
Hourly Rate	$16.50

The negotiators as in previous years were Messrs H. C. Russell and D. C. Moss and the increase was approximately 12½ percent with sound emphasis being placed on the examination fee.

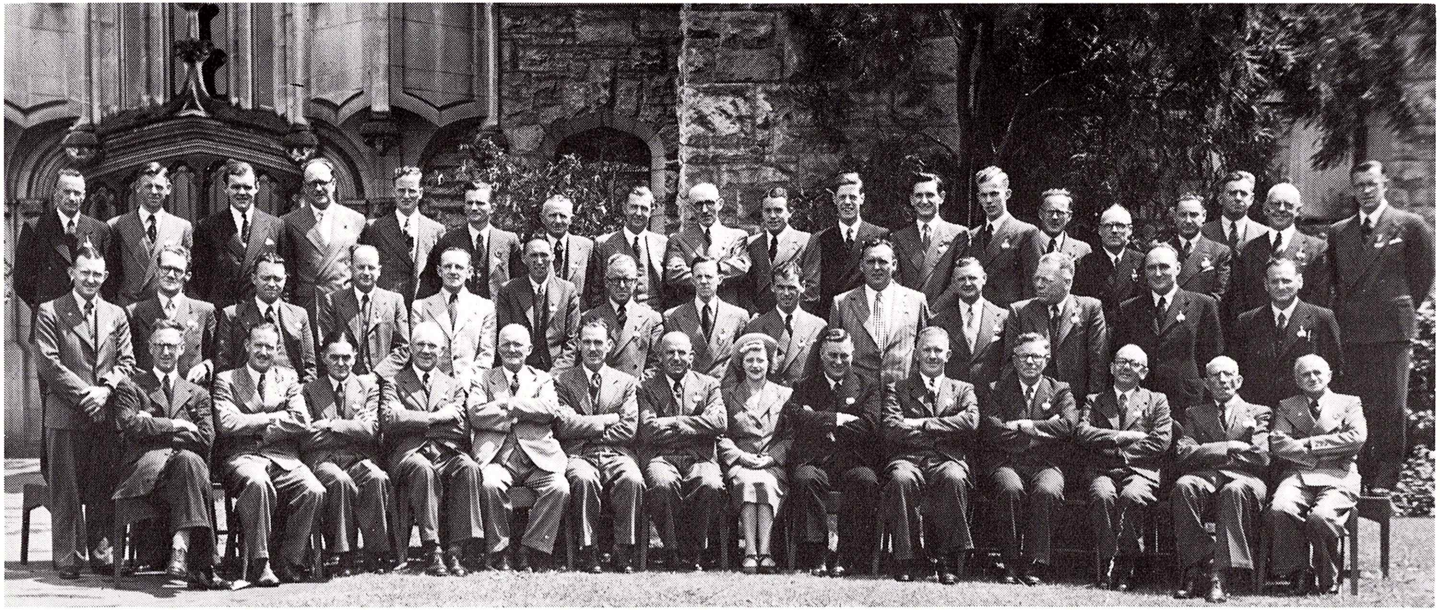
Lenses and instruments were free from import control, but frames and to a lesser degree steel-lined cases continued to be a sure subject for acrimony and some heat. A circular to members in 1970 disclosed that 85% had insufficient frames, 73% had insufficient combination frames and 96% found the supply of N.Z. made frames unsatisfactory ex stock. A meeting of all the involved parties with the Minister of Customs brought no relief and the Conference protested further. The following year the Minister set up a committee to co-ordinate the supply. The Minister and his advisers were obsessed with numbers, not with the factors of sizes and styles and their attitude was almost hypnotic at this stage. It was ordained that 200,000 units would be of local manufacture and 100,000 imported. The Committee meeting was in the main abortive. The Ministry representative was also strongly motivated to protect local industry. By April 1972 some alteration in attitude resulted in a 20% increase in licence allocations which relieved the situation considerably. Gradually a drift ensued towards metal frames which were only manufactured overseas. A survey of members was done and as a result the Department granted an additional 15% licence for metal frames only. Mr M. Morrison of the Trade and Industry Department addressed the 1974 Conference. He surveyed the current overall national trade deficit which explained the stringent policy being pursued. Some aspects relating to optometry were clarified but others were not explained.

An ensuing meeting of optometrists, wholesalers, manufacturers and the department gained an additional 20% grant in licence value. This was pursuant to the presentation of facts and figures by all parties. Devaluation of 15% was soon to largely counteract this grant. Mr Morrison was again present at the 1975 Conference and dwelt on the overall trade inbalance of $1400 million. However overseas price rises, the higher cost of gold, the devaluation etc. were severely affecting unit figures and an increase of 40% was allowed for metal frames only. Criticism was voiced on the supply of children's frames.

In 1977 following the annual frame survey a detailed assessment of the O.M.C. frames was carried out. Discussions followed with Mr F. Wallace of that company to try and overcome apparent problems. The Owen Optical Company did not reply to any correspondence. An additional 20% of licence value was also granted but broadly speaking these extra allocations only kept pace with the increasing unit costs especially in metal frames. Mr Morrison again at the Conference, introduced a new dimension to the supply ailment. The NAFTA Trade Agreement always envisaged the possibility of no restrictions on spectacle frames and the Department was on the eve of implementing this concept. This would ease the availability of metal frames as Australian sources would be available and it was felt that the local manufacture of plastic frames could remain fully viable aided by some export volume. However, suddenly in 1978 the licences from overseas sources were cut by 25% but vigorous representations by all affected parties effected a reversal to the previous position. Overall, despite controls which probably achieve little, the supply position has nowadays eased very considerably.

In 1969 some material was received from the University of New South Wales on the ocular side-effects of drugs. Mr J. J. Connor stated the British Index of Drugs or the Australian Optometrical List could be followed and the compilation of information for members would take the form of a loose-leaf format. By 1972, the A.O.A. list had been updated and it was intended to make this available to members at cost. This was done in pamphlet form at a cost of $128. Some review and revision of this pamphlet has occurred although some members have found a far more comprehensive reference in the New Ethicals Catalogue which is revised and published three times each year.

Older members, especially those with overseas qualifications, have long been familiar with the International Optical League. The first meeting took place in 1928 in Cologne with Mr J. H. Sutcliffe, the B.O.A. Secretary, being elected the first President. Ten congresses were held pre-war in various European cities. Sir William Champness, Master of the Spectacle Makers Company, was president post-war from 1947 to 1953 when the office passed to Mr G. H. Giles with Miss I. Parnum as secretary. The administration had always been London domiciled. In New Zealand, members for many years informally discussed the wisdom of the N.Z. Institute joining—the subject was occasionally on the Executive or Council agenda. The consensus of opinion was always on the side of remaining aloof. Of more recent times America and Australia both joined the League and airmail and air travel made distance obstacles much less formidable. So it was that during Mr L. Grocott's visit to Britain in 1976 that fresh discussions occurred with Mr P. Smith, secretary of the B.O.A. The League had now broadened into the International Optometric and Optical League comprising 25 countries. The Council decided, after discussing Mr Grocott's report, to apply for membership. The Association was fortunate in that Mr W. Colley was able to represent the Association at the Golden Jubilee held at Dusseldorf in May 1977. The following year the international meeting was held in June at St Louis, Missouri and again Mr W. Colley was able to represent New Zealand. Mr Colley reported that the legislation

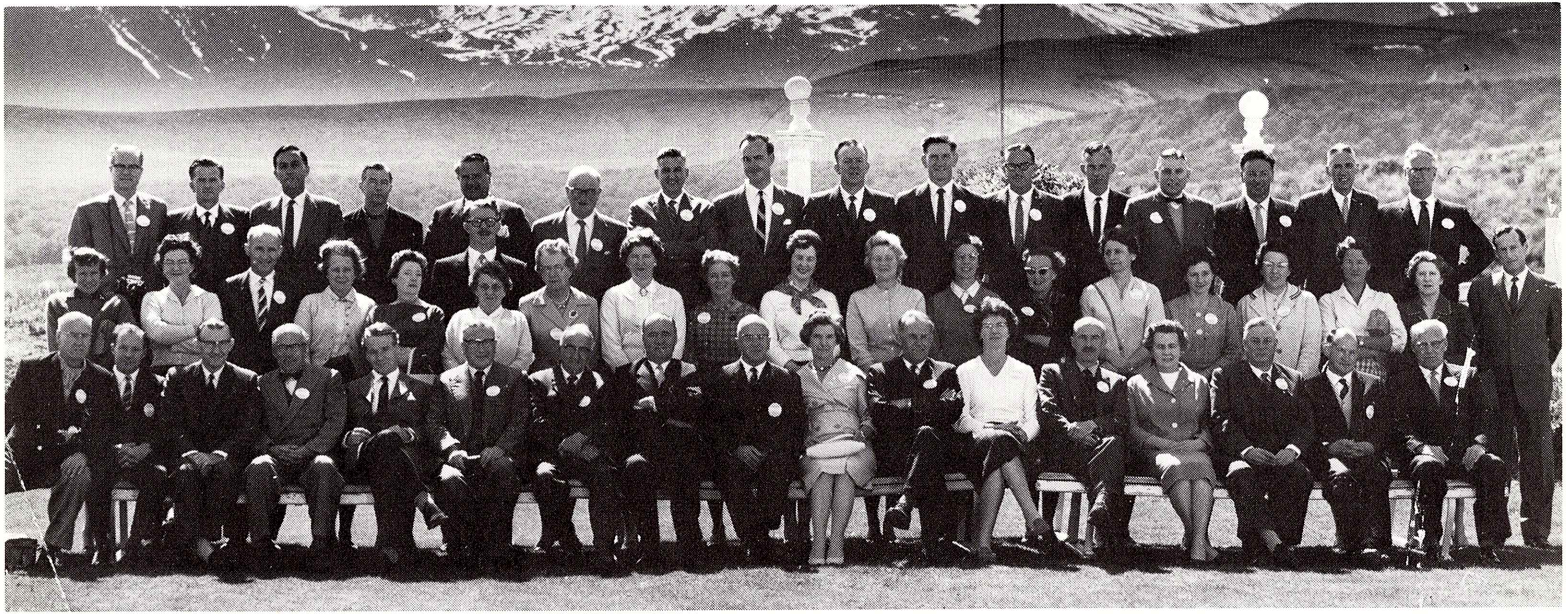


1950 CONFERENCE—AUCKLAND

Back Row: N. Halsey-Cox, J. Atkinson, N. Rosser, A. E. Norgrove, D. G. Stevenson, C. R. Martyn, W. Ritchie, W. T. Brackenridge, J. O. Bennett, G. Forsythe, P. Campbell, J. M. D. Rawnsley, P. F. Waterhouse, J. Young, W. Brice, T. D. Peacock, G. Alpin, F. Hannaford, V. H. Nicholls

Middle Row: W. M. P. Barry, L. A. Curtis, G. Swain, E. E. Skeates, R. A. Dickson, H. B. Shephardson, J. E. Ewart, D. M. Mortimer, P. Lowes, R. A. Baker, P. N. Dick, A. H. Fairmaid, H. S. McKenzie, W. J. Chapman

Front Row: H. Atkinson, E. W. Purchase, E. W. James, R. A. Batstone, B. M. Irvine, F. Chapman, E. H. Grocott, Mrs E. M. Wood, H. C. Collett, G. E. Cox, Chas Martyn, R. Frith, H. Growcott, L. A. Waters



1961 CONFERENCE—THE CHATEAU
Back Row: B. Bennett, C. R. Martyn, H. G. Fletcher, W. Brackenridge, G. Falck, M. A. Kitchen, R. Sargent, E. Curtis, R. R. Cocks, ---, E. Purchase, P. Waterhouse, ---, E. W. Roberts, B. Shepherdson, H. Atkinson
Middle Row: Ladies not identified. Men—A. G. Clark, C. Hopley, D. Penny
Front Row: G. Lowry, K. Mills, P. Barry, E. Grocott, M. Cholerton, G. K. Neill, E. A. Sargent, A. G. Walsh (M.P.), R. A. Bridgman, Mrs R. A. Bridgman, L. Newall, Mrs L. Newall, A. H. T. Rose, Mrs Rose, H. C. Collett, ---, ---.

enacted here had been highly regarded as had the Association's management of professional practice etc. Again, Mr Colley was present at the annual meeting in Milan during May 1979 and he was elected to the Executive for two years.

Before the Association joined the International Optometric and Optical League there had been some years of work culminating in an Association Code of Ethics: always the Institute and later the Association had striven to raise the conduct and status of members and in 1971 the Council produced a new draft code to which members responded with criticisms and comments. These were digested and the 1972 Conference was made ready for the adoption of the new Code. In the following year Messrs J. J. Connor and D. C. Moss were largely responsible for the extensive explanatory notes accompanying the complete code. The master design involving research into parellel professional areas was very largely the fruit of Mr L. B. Grocott's mammoth labours. The Code of Ethics has been incorporated in the Association's Handbook as it must be the guiding light to daily conduct, and it has also been integrated into the University training atmosphere. It must be read alongside the more recent Code issued by the Opticians Board.

Alongside the Code of Ethics ran the question of shop windows. Backrooms of pharmacies or jewellery shops were usually the area for sight testing in the early years. This situation changed to various other arrangements as the Institute grew. Sometimes it was part premises, sometimes whole shops and occasionally upstairs rooms. Most had a shop window. Apparently the 1969 Conference passed a resolution that all shop windows should be phased out within three years. This has not been recorded in the Report, but anyway Council proceeded to ask Mr A. G. Bott to study ways and means to effect this policy. It was elicited by a survey that shop windows did not attract a significant number of patients and Mr E. Sellars stated that his abolition of a substantial shop window in Auckland city had not been detrimental. Many members intimated a willingness to fall into line. Messrs A. Bott, L. Grocott and an architect, circulated information and suggestions to assist members to make any necessary alterations to their premises. By 1973, Mr A. Styles as president, was able to discuss and publicise the subject on his mid-year country wide tour and he was able to state afterwards that the soft approach without sanctions had been very successful. There were only a few shop windows displaying merchandise; certainly there were none with prices stated; and in the following year he hoped those few would be eliminated. At this time the British General Optical Council proposed to protest vigorously at the restrictive regulations on the entry of English qualified persons. An editorial in the "Ophthalmic Optician" (B.O.A.) subsequently quoted the ethical standards and code prevailing here including the abolition of shop windows which, in the editor's opinion, quite justified the stringent New Zealand schedule of overseas qualifications. Surely this was a tribute to years of patient endeavours.

From the inception of the Institute, and probably before that, members took an active interest in the New Zealand Institute for the Blind. Founded in Auckland in 1890 when there were 189 known blind people in the colony, the Institute for the Blind gradually became nationwide in its coverage. Local committees frequently had opticians contributing as working members and many practices used the "Blind Box" at the reception desk as the monetary receptacle for small services rendered.

The Blind Institute had over the years sponsored many aids and helps and optometry had always evinced a interest. Of recent years, low vision aids improved remarkably and the profession demonstrated an active interest in two areas especially, i.e. Homai College and the hospital clinics. The College is devoted to all aspects of the needs and education of partly sighted or blind children and adults. The low vision clinic at Homai College was established in 1975 by the Institute's successor, the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind, following a national seminar for optometrists and ophthalmologists with the principal speaker being Professor A. Rosenbloom of Chicago. The college clinic is staffed by Mr M. J. Frith and Dr A. Morris and other clinics were established at the Eye Departments of Palmerston North (Mr N. Holland and Dr Bolton), Christchurch (Mr A. Rose and Dr Clemett) and Dunedin (Mr G. Sanderson) Hospitals. The Homai clinic serves the children and adults of the college and the needs of the Auckland area. The other clinics, likewise, serve members of the Foundation or people referred from the professions. A small aside comment—the college has a truly remarkable audio-visual room whereby severely handicapped children can see objects highly magnified on a television screen. In the teaching situation, there is a two-way sound system between teacher and pupils for questions and answers. The Board of Trustees of the Foundation, numbering fourteen, does not provide for professional representation but Mr A. G. Bott, an Association member, is on the Board of Trustees due to his interest and work with guide dogs.

Following his comprehensive man-power survey in 1974-75, Mr V. H. Nicholls was appointed by the Council as Professional Appointments Counsellor. Many enquiries were now channelled to Mr Nicholls who noted in his 1976 report an increase in female graduates. The Conference was firmly of the opinion that there was not and must not be any sex discrimination in education or employment. This attitude was emphasised in the student procurement brochures. By 1978, members and students turned increasingly to the counsellor for knowledge and guidance and the appointment has now some resemblance to the American placement service. At the 1978 Conference at Christchurch Mr K. W. Mills defined the relationship between his Student Recruitment Committee and the Professional Appointments

Counsellor—he and Mr Nicholls had formed an ad hoc relationship, and worked together very satisfactorily with the placement and recruitment functions being integrated in the sense that an adequate number of entrants to the profession was ensured relative to the available places in the course and the number of vacancies existing for graduates.

In this period, the consumer became more aware of his real or imagined rights and so, following several complaints, the Association formed a Complaints Sub-committee in 1972. The complainants sometimes have approached the Association directly but some have come through the Department of Trade and Industry, the Consumer Service or the Opticians Board. The sub-committee has consisted of three persons nominated by the Council and the personnel has been a matter of confidentiality.

Over a five year period, forty complaints were received. Almost three-quarters of this number related to alleged high charges and the remainder concerned alleged faulty workmanship or professional treatment. The notable feature was normally a lack of explanation or rapport in the practitioner/patient relationship and more attention to this activity would have avoided nearly all problems. In the last year or two, complaints have tended to swing towards contact lens problems and away from the fees and charges area.

As well as being concerned with the conduct of members to their patients, the Association has always been solicitous to promote good conduct within the wider objects of the Association. Foremost therein has been the scrutiny and control of personal conduct, integrity and lawful behaviour. The 1965 et seq. situation under the then Rule 7 was vague and the Rule held little power. From that period onwards all professions redesigned their demands on professional conduct. Thus it was that 1974 witnessed a complete reappraisal of the procedures relating to suitable professional discipline. Mr A. C. Styles as president had initiated much of this work with Mr L. B. Grocott as an able assistant. The ensuing design resulted in a new lengthy provision, now Rule 19, being presented to the 1974 Conference for ratification. Very suitably Mr E. H. Grocott presented the motion emphasising, from his prolonged experience, that this new Rule was comparable with that of other professions and was logical to implement adequate and just control. There would be an Investigation Committee as a preliminary process for all complaints. The committees would, if the complaint was deemed of sufficient substance, refer the matter and evidence to a Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee's judgment might take one of several forms but any judgment should always be subject to appeal to the full Council so that justice should not only be done but appear to be done. Briefly this rule covers "professional misconduct" which includes: (a) any breach of the Rules or by-laws of the Association or any duly authorised rule of an Association Branch; (b) any breach of Section 2 of the Crimes Act (1961) involving dishonesty or (c) any breach of good ethics, or improper or infamous conduct unbecoming a member of the Association.

The presentation of this far-reaching reform which was so meticulously researched, received almost unanimous support and it was accompanied by a well-merited tribute to Messrs Grocott, père et fils.

Two financial matters occupied the Association's attention at various stages.

A. Building Fund. Around the mid-1950s there was an urge or a fashion amongst all national associations to own their own building in Wellington as being both economical, a status symbol and a good investment. Several organisations did so with varying success and the urgings of Mr G. E. Cox stimulated the Institute in 1957 to assign £250 as the nucleus of a building fund. This fund received occasional additions in the next few years but times changed, personnel changed, viewpoints and needs changed until today there remains in the Balance Sheet an anachronism: Building Fund: $1,113.

B. Practice Purchase Fund. It was felt, nearly ten years ago, that with the emergence of new graduates from Auckland University and the prevailing buoyant economic outlook, it might be prudent for the Association to investigate and, if necessary, to provide a practice purchase fund. A sub-committee investigated various avenues of procedure, all of which then and in the light of subsequent economic development would have presented difficulties; also the anticipated need for such a fund did not materialise as most young graduates have established a pathway of procedure rather unenvisaged at that time. Consequently investigations and developments of a practice purchase fund ceased.

The last two items discussed, although without positive results, portrayed the continuing thrust of the Institute/Association, constantly refreshed with new, younger, questing graduates, towards fresh endeavours. As Jacobi said "we always live prospectively, never retrospectively and there is no abiding moment".

Despite some misgivings, Mr L. B. Grocott, whilst president in 1976, visited America and Europe. Things unfold and this sojourn stimulated a visionary mind with new thoughts. Much had been accomplished often on an ad hoc basis or on guestimates. Australian experience had proved the need for factual information and it seemed likely that both Government departments and efficient private practice management needed real information gleaned here. The 1977 Conference devoted much time to glimpsing into the future, aided by some invigorating perceptions from Sir Randal Elliott in his opening address. Mr Grocott had done much investigatory work so that the profession could achieve a self analysis. It had been ascertained that the Department of Management Studies, Waikato University, using computer techniques could correlate individual practice management figures and also information on a national level. Further, the attributes of a Planning

Committee were that it was independent, that its members had skills different from those of the Council, that its members were able to "dream" and to initiate investigatory aspects and that like any effective think-tank, it could be dissolved in two or three years. After that a new, but different committee might see new lights and avenues. Conference, with considerable debate, resolved to proceed. A sum of $20 was added to the subscriptions to cover the first year's costs. Two questionnaires were distributed. A practice questionnaire covered a wide area of administrative and management detail; also a personal questionnaire covered much detail of a more personal and working nature. Both were moderately exhaustive and one member found that they required three hours of work.

The development of all the minutiae of this survey took time as mistakes and experience were ever prevalent factors. Continuing levies of ten dollars each year have now provided a fund of nearly five thousand dollars for future activity in this field. The survey results were issued in two parts:-

1. A practice survey of considerable depth and detail. Almost any practice or management detail can be obtained for comparison with a member's individual or group practice.
2. A personal survey involving all the intimate personal performances of the practitioner within the practice.

No analysis of this depth had ever been attempted previously. The profession has thus been equipped with accurate and widespread information. Assessment and implications are still being studied by Council and members. The Committee has gone into recess and some new approach may be expected in the future. It has been suggested that the factors of personal and eye care and the emerging technology will exert some influences but as yet they are only dimly perceived.

A summary of the finances as at 31.8.79 is appended.

Income and Expenditure Account

INCOME (in dollars)		EXPENDITURE (in dollars)	
Entrance Fees	260.00	Audit Fee	205.00
Interest B.N.Z.	303.00	Conference Expenses	835.00
Interest P.O.S.B.	122.00	Council Expenses	3856.00
Subscriptions	29484.00	Depreciation & General	240.00
Sundries	20.00	Handbook	465.00
		Insurance, Printing & Postage	4497.00
		Secretarial Fee	6638.00
		Subscription & Scholarship	1065.00
		P.R. Consultant Fee	2129.00
		Pamphlets & Careers	4874.00
		Planning Committee	592.00
		Scholarship Ceremony	396.00
		Seminars & Lecturers	631.00
		Side Effects of Drugs	66.00
		I.O.O.L.	443.00
		Bulletin	1280.00
		History of Assoc.	311.00
		Sundries	1322.00
		Surplus of Income	344.00
	$30189.00		$30189.00

In accordance with recent budgeting practice whereby an annual subscription was struck each year, for the 79/80 year the assigned figure was $165 per member except for members engaged in hospital work whose subscriptions should be $110. The public relations levy on wholesale work had been eliminated some years ago and the subscription now fulfilled all the Association's monetary needs.

The chronological story has neared its end. Perhaps it is sufficient to record the structure and personnel of the New Zealand Optometrical Association as it enters 1980.

The Membership was recorded as:-

Life Members	6
Honorary Members	4
Ordinary Members	230
Retired Members	35
Student Members	7

The Officers for the year 1979/80:-

President:	Mr J. D. Adam	Auckland
Vice President:	Mr S. E. Nicol	Christchurch
Treasurer:	Mr K. R. Shanks	Wellington

Council:

Auckland:	Messrs J. D. Adam, R. B. Apperley
North Island:	Messrs A. C. Styles, J. R. Wilson
South Island:	Messrs G. F. Bridgman, S. E. Nichol, J. H. Veale
Wellington:	Messrs K. W. Mills, D. C. Moss, W. C. McClellan, A. G. Rhodes, H. C. Russell and K. R. Shanks
Secretary:	Mr E. R. Neal, succeeded in Feb. 1980 by Mr P. D. George
Transaction Editor:	Mr J. deW. Anstice
Professional Appointments Counsellor:	Mr V. H. Nicholls
Historian and Archivist:	Mr F. O. Davis
Life Members:	Messrs H. Atkinson, A. H. T. Rose, R. A. Bridgman, H. C. Collett, E. C. Grocott, G. K. Neill
Honorary Members:	Professors H. D. Sampson and T. P. Grosvenor, Dr H. J. H. Hiddlestone, Mr H. P. Shepherdson

H. S. GILBERD MEMORIAL WINNERS

Mr Roydon Brooke-Taylor	1954-58
Mr George Edward Cox	1958-68
Mr Henry Atkinson	1963
Mr Albert Henry Thomas Rose	1963
Professor Theodore Park Grosvenor	1969

OPTICIANS BOARD MEMBERS

Mr V. H. Nicholls, Mr A. H. T. Rose, Prof. L. A. F. Stockley, Mr K. W. Mills, Mr H. C. Russell.

CHAPTER 9

PAST PRESIDENTS, PAST SECRETARIES AND TRIPLE GENERATION FAMILIES

The Institute of Opticians, or as it now is, the New Zealand Optometrical Association, in this chapter has placed on record its past chief-serving personnel so that their biographies should not be lost in the dust of time. There has been one notable addition, Mr H. S. Gilberd, whose record richly entitled him to a place of honour.

HENRY SEARLE GILBERD, born in Napier in 1881 was educated at Napier High School. In 1898 he shifted to Wellington and commenced training under Mr A. Levi. In 1900, he sailed for England and gained his F.S.M.C. examination. Around 1907, he entered partnership with Mr T. H. Morrison establishing the renowned firm of Morrison and Gilberd Ltd at 103 Customhouse Quay. The present property at 48 Willis Street was at first rented but in 1928 the freehold was acquired. Soon afterwards the three stories were completely redesigned to provide for every facet of optical requirements. The ground floor was chiefly reception area, fitting rooms and one refraction room. The first floor housed three more refraction rooms and the fitting lens laboratory. The second floor was devoted to lens manufacture, surfacing and storage. He was a founder of the N.Z. Optical Association in 1912 and never missed an Association meeting during its short life. He was elected first president of the Institute of Optometrists in 1922, having been a convener of the inaugural gathering. He resigned in 1928 as president and then became a member of the Opticians Board on which he served until his demise in 1948. He was treasurer of the Institute until 1947; no mean task. In 1944-45, he travelled throughout New Zealand endeavouring to raise the target of £5000 for an education scheme within New Zealand.

For many years he was Director of Examinations for the Board and the firm's premises were always available and ideally suitable for such needs as indeed for any needs associated with optometry.

His chairmanship in the 1922-28 period called for much tact, the welding together of dissenters and diplomacy in the legislative sphere; his long service on the Board was marked by clear opinions and sound judgement; his presence, perhaps wreathed in cigar smoke, was always a rallying point for young and old at conferences; his lone effort, despite ill-health, in the education fund canvassing and his efforts on the bowling green, card table or golf links all marked him out as a great leader.

EDWARD ALFRED SARGENT was born in Hawera in 1886, one of a family of twelve. He passed through local High School and after Teachers Training College and Victoria College he taught for a year, followed by a year studying law at Canterbury College, gained his D.B.O.A. in 1912, his Fellowship in 1913 and his F.S.M.C. in 1915. He joined the British Army and was stationed at Ophthalmic Department, 13th Stationary Hospital, Boulogne. He was married in Edinburgh in 1917 and repatriated to New Zealand in 1919. The firm of Barry and Sargent was formed in September 1920. Mr N. Stouppe joined in 1923 and transferred to Christchurch and Mr G. Abbott was a partner from 1927 to 1929. Some of the trainees to pass through the firm were Messrs A. G. Rhodes, P. K. Heginbotham, R. G. Halifax, G. Swain, R. J. Barnes, N. R. Savidge, R. R. Cocks, R. T. Shanks, R. C. Bailey, R. F. Black, J. A. Thompson, D. G. Stevenson.

He was president of the Institute from 1928 to 1938 as well as being very active in the preceding organisation. In 1928, he, along with Messrs H. S. Gilberd and T. G. Young, found the pie cart open at the railway station very late at night after witnessing from the Visitors Gallery the passing of the Opticians Act. He held Number One Certificate from the Institute and was actively associated with the Board's examinations until the war years. For many years he lived at Island Bay and drove into work daily, parking his car around the Vivian Street area and even up to recent times walking the remainder. In later years he withdrew largely from Institute activities but continued working until a month before his death in July 1976, aged 90 years. He was a pioneer, a quiet, persistent pioneer, always with sound ideas. To lead the North Island bowls team at conferences was always a thrill and never was he too tired to enliven others with the piano and his rich voice often counter-balanced by another fine voice in the person of Mr T. L. Cocks and abetted by the Shakespearean actor, Mr S. F. McLean. There were two daughters and a son, Roger, who ably carries on the optometrical tradition and who has been a later president. He was also president of the Wellington and the Island Bay Bowling Clubs and Deputy Grand Master of the N.Z. Freemasons. In his later years, Mr Sargent held the distinguished status of Life member of the Association.

ROYDON BROOKE-TAYLOR. His entry into optics was through seven years employment with Mr G. Sevicke-Jones in Christchurch. In 1915 he transferred to take charge of Arthur Cocks & Co's prescription workshop in Wellington. Three years later he joined the firm of Morrison and Gilberd Ltd, of which he later became a director. He was a member of the Executive of the Institute of Optometrists from 1922-1928 and vice-president in 1929; a position he held with the new Institute from 1930 until 1938 when he was elected president. He relinquished the presidency in 1946. He was elected a Life member in 1949, but prior to this honour, the 1947 Conference made a special presentation of silverware and a watch and closely associated Mrs Brooke-Taylor with the occasion. His organising ability during the war years in military and manpower negotiations, his post-war journeys throughout New Zealand on industrial and C.M.T. matters and his over-riding interest in education and the Wellington Clinic were intermingled with the tragic loss of Keith (R.A.F.) and Rex (R.N.Z.A.F.). He retired in 1954 and died in 1968. He was Director of Examinations from 1947-1958 and a member of the Opticians Board from 1948-1957. The hospitality of the Brooke-Taylors was known throughout New Zealand. One son, Ned, continues the practice of optometry in Fielding. His practical ability was remarkable from lens work to lathe work to house foundations and he always found some way to do anything. He was an honoured and respected friend of everyone, but especially of the many students who were indebted to his skills and ideas.

HAROLD MOUNTFIELD BENNETT was born in Nelson in May 1892 and educated at Nelson, Havelock North and Wellington. He served a pharmacy apprenticeship in Wellington and qualified as a chemist. He married Leola Schroder in 1906 and owned a pharmacy in Dannivirke from 1906-10. He was, as a consequence, experienced in dental extraction etc. and was the only optometrist who could have registered as a dentist under the Dental Act. But optometry prevailed over pharmacy or dentistry. He travelled to England in 1910; studied under Lionel Laurance and Oscar Wood; gained his F.S.M.C., spent a balmy winter in Florence at Robert's Pharmacia. In late 1911 he set up first floor practice in Napier. He was very active with Messrs Gilberd, Barry, Coote, Sargent etc., in forming the 1922 Institute. In 1922 he travelled overseas and returned with a de Zeng refractor head. Again in 1927 he was overseas and gained the London Refraction Hospital Certificate. Disaster by fire destroyed his newly designed upstairs premises in the 1931 earthquake. The premises were rebuilt and he was again in Britain in 1937 and 1955. He was provincial representative on the General Executive for some years, chairman of the Education Committee in 1943 and was elected president for 1946-47. He had an active interest in New Zealand flora and fauna and even in later years he was studying the ferns at Milford Sound. Stamp collecting was also another absorbing interest. He died in November 1959. An incisive mind, highly educated in optometry, widely travelled, a respected examiner and a kindly, direct manner were some of his attributes.

GORDON KIRKPATRICK NEILL was born at Outram in August 1896. His secondary education was at Normal School in Dunedin and he commenced work at age 15 with his elder brother. He trained as a mechanic using a foot treadle grind-stone and entered the Army in 1916 and saw service on the Western Front 1917-18. On his discharge he worked in Edinburgh with his uncle, Mr J. Baird, passed F.S.M.C. in 1919 and with Dr Max Coque's tuition passed the British Optical Association examinations in 1921. He returned to N.Z. in 1922 and joined in partnership with older brother Hugh. He was present at the inauguration of the 1922 Institute and was active in all subsequent years especially in the sphere of education aiming at a college and eventually a University degree. Much was explored in Dunedin; a course was furnished for some years and a close liaison established with the Otago Medical School and especially with Dr Gowland. Lack of numbers and space problems largely prevented the establishment of optometry within the medical school. He was elected president 1947-48 and a Life member in 1965. His interests have included Freemasonry, tramping, golf, and now bowls. Of recent years, he has lived in Christchurch and still practises optometry quietly—our oldest practising member.

CHARLES MARTYN J.P. was born in Auckland in 1888 and received his secondary education at Prince Albert College. Through an advertisement he enrolled with the Philadelphia Optical College, took the correspondence course and gained its Diploma. To improve his knowledge further, he travelled steerage via Cape Horn in 1909 to London. He gained his F.S.M.C. under the tutorship of Laurance and Wood and then worked in England until his return in 1914 to a new Auckland practice. He was an original member of the 1922 Institute and was active especially in the local Association. In 1937 he was joined in practice by his son, Charles Raymond. For ten years from 1941 he was organiser of the Auckland region for Medical Boards. He was president of the Institute in 1948-49, retired from practice in 1957 and was made an Honorary member. Gardening and bowls occupied the next eleven years until his sudden death in 1968, aged 80.

LAURENCE ARTHUR NOTLEY was born London in 1908. He matriculated in 1923 and was then apprenticed to "Uni-Bifocal Company" enabling entry to a studentship to Northampton Institute. This was abandoned on his migration with parents to New Zealand in 1926. Orchestral music and touring with J. C. Williamson theatricals followed. The imminence of sound films motivated L.A.N. to abandon the theatre and Mr H. S. Gilberd accepted him as an assistant in late 1926 where he remained until 1944. In 1927 he gained Sections A and B of the examinations, but music and domestic affairs delayed his graduation until 1934. He became secretary of the Institute in 1936 at a salary of fifteen guineas per year. A personal typewriter was required and this absorbed two years' salary. Membership of Central Executive in 1943 necessitated his transition to honorary secretaryship and except for a short period in 1945 with Mr C. E. Wynne as secretary, the task continued until 1947. He was elected president in 1949 at Napier. He transferred to personal private practice upstairs in Willis Street in 1944. That practice was terminated in July 1976 on his semi-retirement to a part-time practice at Otaki. His bubbling personality, his ready pen, his keen repartee and humour were known to all members.

HORI COUTTS COLLETT was born in Waimate in February 1906 and educated at Waimate District High School. He spent two years as a pupil teacher and then enrolled at Canterbury College for two years in 1924 and 1925. It was there, under the tutorship of Dr Denby, that he carried out the research into the parietal eye of the tuatara and became the first New Zealand optician to have original research published (B.J.P.O. Jan. 1932). He spent some time in England gaining his F.S.M.C., F.B.O.A. (Hons) and London Refraction Hospital Certificate. He returned and entered practice in Cathedral Square with his uncle, Mr G. Sevicke-Jones. He was president of the Canterbury Optical Association several times and always an inspirer. He attended the 1931 Conference and was then elected to the Executive on which he served for many subsequent years. He was president of the Association 1950-51 and was Examiner for Section D from 1933 at intervals until 1950. He was appointed to the Opticians Board 1951, relinquishing the appointment in 1964. He won several McKinney Cup Competitions, had articles published here and overseas, and was a frequent lecturer. He attended 32 Conferences in unbroken sequence. Always a keen student and educator, he practised for 50 years without a shop window. As a civilian he was marched into Burnham Camp to be the first optician to officially examine and prescribe for the Armed Forces. The first prescription was completed 14 February 1941. Nowadays he enjoys semi-retirement but in 1977 was president of the New Zealand Bowling Association. He still travels, he judges horse-flesh and exudes joie-de-vivre.

WALTER STEPHEN HOLLAND was born in Napier in 1898, the third child of a family of twelve. He was educated at Napier Boys' High School and then became delivery and odd-job boy for Mr Azzopardi. He duly proceeded to England gaining there his F.S.M.C. and F.B.O.A. in 1921. His Honours exam followed in 1924. Meantime he had served in the First World War. The partnership of Azzopardi and Holland was established in 1929 and in subsequent years it was a recognised training establishment. He was joined in partnership by B. J. Russell in 1960. Always a keen supporter of the Institute, he was elected president 1951-52. He maintained a prolonged interest in a small property of 20 acres of apricots and citrus fruit and was a keen Rotarian and bowler until his death in 1973.

GEORGE SOMERVILLE CARMICHAEL was the first candidate to pass the I.O.N.Z. examinations in 1923 in Wellington. His certificates, Number 1, are held in the Association's archives. He commenced practice in Timaru in 1926 associated with a jewellery business (McBrides) and retired in 1963. Optometry was his vital interest. He trained at Mr G. Sevicke-Jones's with Mr R. Brooke-Taylor; acted as South Canterbury examiner for all Armed Forces' requirements for 18 years. He was active in seminar arrangements for many years with Timaru as South Island centre. He was a national figure in the Automobile Association and was instrumental in amalgamating the 15 Associations into one national body. He became an A.A. member in 1932, served on Road Safety Committees and was a keen photographer and rose grower. He was president of the N.Z.O.A. in 1952-53 and died, aged 73, in 1973.

HENRY ATKINSON was born in Auckland in 1909 and later moved to Blenheim and attended Marlborough College and Nelson College until 1927. He commenced in architecture but abandoned that avenue after two years. In 1929 he obtained a junior position from 29 applicants with T. Peacock & Sons, scientific instrument makers and opticians. He passed Section D in 1934 and proceeded to England. As related elsewhere, he was instrumental in obtaining permission for N.Z. graduates to sit the Honours examination of the British Optical Association without a Fellowship pre-requisite. He joined Mr W. A. Taaffe in 1937 and became intensely involved in the New Zealand education scheme. He was appointed a member of the General Executive 1945-47, examiner in Section D 1945-50, member of the National Education Committee from 1952 and also the Opticians Board. On his own initiative over a garden fence, he discussed with Dr Harry Scott of the Psychology Department, Auckland University, the outlines of an optometrical university syllabus. From this, grew today's education programme. Truly, he could be described as a pioneer architect of education. He was awarded the H. S. Gilberd Memorial Medal in 1963 and was president of N.Z.O.A. 1953-54. He now practises part-time in Birkenhead after many years of service in Otahuhu.

THOMAS GRAY YOUNG was born in 1892 and was educated at Otago Boys' High School. He served an apprenticeship in watchmaking before proceeding to England post-war where he gained his F.B.O.A. (Hons) in October 1924 and his F.S.M.C. On his return he commenced practice in the Wellington branch of G. & T. Young Ltd (the oldest jewellery house in N.Z., established in 1862) and was elected vice-president of the Institute of Optometrists for 1924-28. He was appointed an original member of the Opticians Board and remained a member until his voluntary retirement in 1953. On many occasions he was an examiner of Section D. In 1930 he returned to Dunedin as manager and retired in 1968. He was a noted whisky connoisseur. After being president of Otago/Southland Optical Association on three occasions he became president of the N.Z.O.A. for 1954-55. He died suddenly on 15 August 1971.

ERIC HAROLD GROCOTT Q.S.O., J.P. was born in 1905 in Roxburgh and his secondary education was at Hamilton and Waitaki Boys' High Schools. In 1926 he commenced part-time study at Auckland University College in heat and light whilst working for the Standard Optical Company under Mr W. T. Wilson. In 1927 he proceeded to England and gained his F.B.O.A. and F.S.M.C. examinations in 1928. On returning to New Zealand he went into practice in 1931 with his father and was an early member of the Institute. He retired from practice in 1962 and was elected a Life member in 1976. He was a very active community worker, e.g. 46 years with Waikato Swimming Centre, a Life member and patron; foundation president of the local branch of N.Z. Crippled Children Society, a Life member and patron and honorary vice-president of the national body and one of five "named" vice-presidents; first secretary of the area branch of the Cancer Society for eight years and similar time on N.Z. Council. He has a family of three sons and two daughters. He was appointed a J.P. in 1969 and was awarded the Q.S.O. for community services in the New Year's Honours 1979. For two years he was president of N.Z.O.A. (1955-57).

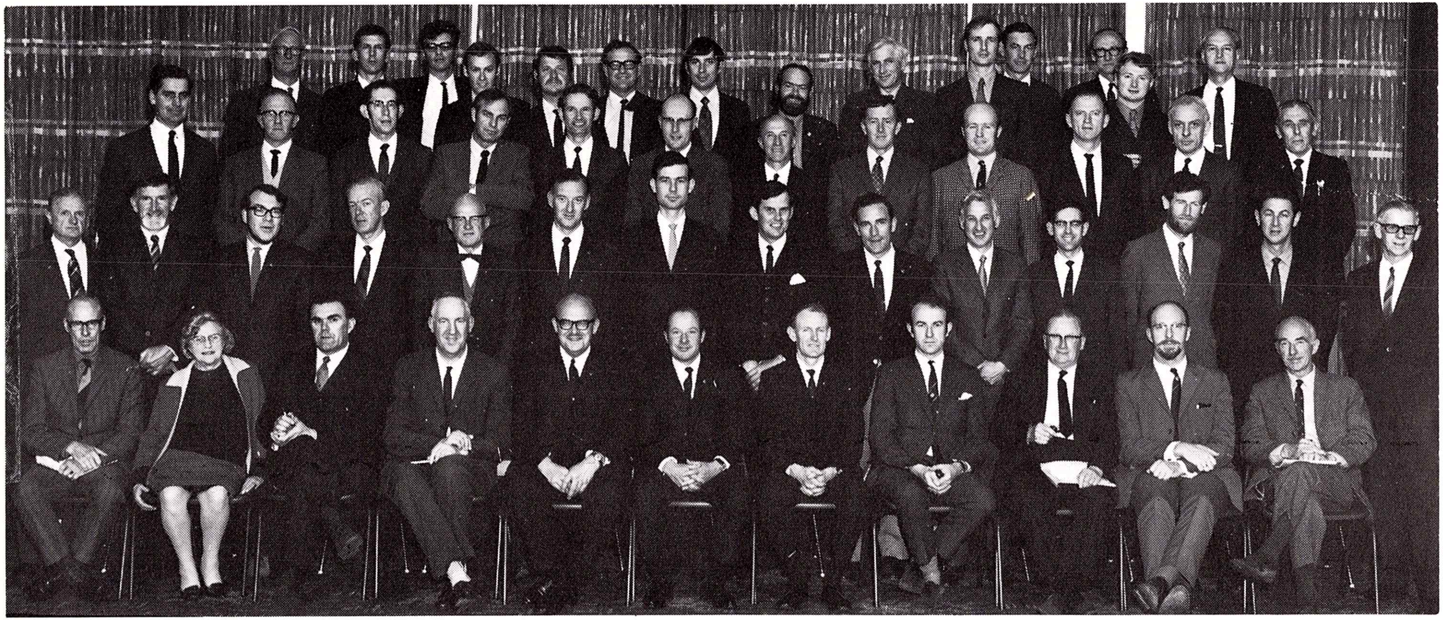
GEORGE EDWARD COX M.B.E., J.P. was born in Wellington in 1908 and was educated at Wellington College. He commenced work at Morrison & Gilberd's in 1927 but soon proceeded to London to the Northampton Polytechnic. He collaborated with Fincham brothers in original research on the lens capsule and accommodation and gained his F.B.O.A. (Hons) (No 3104), F.S.M.C. (Hons) and Certificate of the London Refraction Hospital. He engaged in private practice in Islington, and returned to private practice in Wellington in 1931, transferring to 13 Manners Street about 1935. He was a lecturer and activator in pre-war years. After being elected to the Central Executive in 1933, he edited the Institute News 1933-53, and was a member of the Manpower Committee in war years, was Officer I/C Army, Navy and Air Force Optician Service 1942-54 with ranks of Captain and Major, and was awarded the M.B.E. in the Honours List, June 1946, for war services. He was elected vice-president of the N.Z.O.A. 1938-47 and 1955-57, was a member of the Military Training Optometrical Committee, an examiner in Section D for the Opticians Board, a member and vice-chairman of the Wellington Hospital Board and held various appointments in Rotary, Road Safety, Freemasonry and Church. In 1958 he was awarded the H. S. Gilberd Memorial Medal and was elected a Life member of the Association in 1964. He was actively involved in building the University Education Fund and was president N.Z.O.A.

1957-58. He died after a short illness in 1968.

ALBERT HENRY THOMAS ROSE O.B.E. was born in London, received his secondary education in Melbourne and was awarded University free places in civil engineering and agricultural science. He returned to Britain for six years and finally arrived in New Zealand in 1937. He led the Second Opticians Unit overseas (No. 8 Unit) which serviced much of Oceania. He caught leprosy visiting the leper island of Makogai and was later appointed to the Leper Trust Board and became its second and current chairman in 1969. This board has distributed over six million dollars in medical aid. He was awarded H. S. Gilberd Memorial Award in 1963 for education services and the O.B.E. in 1973. He was appointed a member of the Opticians Board in 1963. An original and long-serving member of National Education Committee, he was elected a Life member of the Association in 1972. He was a pioneer in 1947 in contact lens work and is a member of the Low Vision Clinic at Christchurch Hospital. He has two partners in practice. He has three daughters by his first wife who died in the early forties. Later he married the Matron, Apia Hospital, and was rewarded this time with four sons. He became the first optometrist to visit the Chatham Islands in 1949. President of the N.Z.O.A. 1958-59-60.

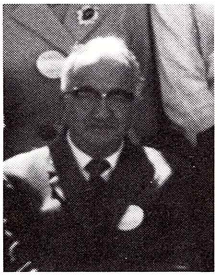
RAYMOND ANTHONY BRIDGMAN was born in Christchurch and educated at the Boys' High School. He joined the Standard Optical Company in March 1923 and was their Auckland manager four years later. He qualified D.I.O.N.Z. in 1928 and in 1930 was appointed as optician to Peter Dick Ltd in Dunedin, before transferring in 1933 to Hugh and G. K. Neill Ltd. He had a long association with Mr G. K. Neill and Professor Gowland in promoting a proposed School of Optics for Otago University. However, the idea was abandoned at the outbreak of war. In 1945 he joined Messrs Sturmer and Watson Ltd in a long, enduring and respected partnership. As well as being actively involved in building the University Education Fund he was president of N.Z.O.A. in 1960-61 and during his term of office represented the N.Z.O.A. at the International Optical Congress in London. He is a Life member of the Contact Lens Society and was elected a Life member of N.Z.O.A. in 1976. At various times he has been active in tennis and soccer and in later years in bowls.

LEONARD ELLIOTT NEWALL D.S.C. was born in Napier in 1917 and educated at Wellington College gaining his matriculation in 1933. He trained with Messrs Spear and Murray and later with Mr G. E. Cox. After qualifying in 1938, he proceeded to Britain and obtained his F.B.O.A. (Hons) in February 1940. He entered the Royal Navy rising to Lieutenant rank in destroyer and torpedo boats; he saw five years active war service. He recommenced optometry with Mr R. R. Cocks in



1970 CONFERENCE—WELLINGTON
Fourth Row: H. Atkinson, K. Atkinson, G. R. Kearney, J. A. Anderson, B. M. Jenkins, D. B. Semmens, R. B. Apperley, N. Ritchie, E. Neal, J. C. McLennan, J. B. Sturkevant, S. G. Dinnis, M. Fielding, R. F. Johnston
Third Row: P. Campion, D. Thatcher, D. Moss, W. S. Gates, J. Rhodes, E. D. Shattky, A. Roberts, S. W. Stephens, M. Webber, R. N. Pennington, J. G. Watson, E. R. Boyd
Second Row: P. N. Dick, J. M. D. Rawnsley, J. A. Fairmaid, R. R. Cocks, L. Bell, R. J. Denny, B. F. Whelan, J. D. Adam, A. G. Bott, R. J. Sargent, K. R. Shanks, J. J. Connor, S. P. Salek, J. Atkinson
Front Row: H. S. Taylor, Mrs E. M. Wood, F. J. E. Sellars, Mr McNulty (secretary Opticians Board), Dr J. Hiddlestone, K. W. Mills, H. C. Russell, A. C. Styles, H. Woosbourne, L. A. F. Stockley, A. H. T. Rose

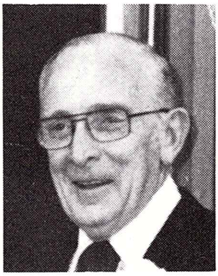
H. S. Gilberd



E. A. Sargent

R. Brooke-Taylor

G. E. Cox



F. O. Davis
(Author)

Wellington in 1946, was a N.Z.O.A. Councillor for 12-15 years, and convener of Opticians Board Disciplinary Committee. He has been busy in sports, school and community projects. He was elected N.Z.O.A. president for 1961-62.

WALTER MARSDEN PETER BARRY was born at Auckland in 1914 and educated at Auckland Grammar School and St Andrew's College, Christchurch. At first he was privately tutored by Mr H. S. McKenzie, and later at the Wellington Clinic and the London Optical Institute in 1938. He gained his F.B.O.A. and passed his S.D.O.N.Z. in 1949. He attended post graduate contact lens courses in Sydney in 1946 and in London in 1967. He had a long war service, first with civilian boards and later in charge of four different optician units, including the Pacific service. He has conducted in Auckland, courses in industrial optometry and L.V.A. and has held all offices in the Auckland Branch and has served for many years on the N.Z.O.A. Council. He was active in establishing the School of Optometry in Auckland and is a tutor in socio-economics. He was the Association president 1962-63.

ROGER JAMES SARGENT was born in Wellington and educated at Nelson College. He spent two years at Victoria University before graduating L.O.Sc. from Melbourne in 1950. He was the first New Zealand student to obtain this qualification. After returning to New Zealand he entered practice in Barry and Sargent Ltd. He was elected a N.Z.O.A. Councillor from 1954-72 as a Central Executive member. He has two sons and a daughter. Was president 1963-64.

MAURICE ALLAN KITCHEN was born in Wanganui in 1904 and educated at Wanganui Collegiate. He trained initially for pharmacy with his father and continued in this and optometry until 1946. Thereafter, with his wife as receptionist, he practised optometry solely—having had education in optometry in Britain about 1930 gaining an F.S.M.C. He joined the Institute in 1931, served on N.Z.O.A. Council for some years and was president 1964-65-66. He died in 1979.

KEITH WINSTONE MILLS was born at Masterton in 1926. Paternally he is a fifth generation New Zealander and maternally is of German/Norwegian descent. He was educated at Wairarapa College and later studied science at Victoria University. He qualified S.D.O. in 1946 and joined Mr G. E. Cox as an associate in 1948 before succeeding to the practice in 1960. He became an ex-officio member of the Central Executive as Librarian in 1949 and has served almost continuously on the Central Executive ever since. He has been especially involved in the National Education Committee, in the company trading legislation, student recruitment and more recently in reporting international affairs. He has been an Opticians Board member since 1977 and was an original organiser and advocate of seminars. He was president 1966-67-68-69.

HENRY CHARLES RUSSELL was born and educated in Wellington. He qualified in 1952. He is a grandson of Mr H. S. Gilberd, a son of Olga Gilberd and a nephew of Messrs J. W. S. Gilberd and M. S. Gilberd. Thus his family linkage with optometry extends over 80 years. He was elected to the Central Executive in 1963, was appointed to the Opticians Board in 1973 and is now its vice-chairman. He was the negotiator re scaling fees for Government work. After being elected vice-president in 1968 he was president in 1969-70-71-72 and is still a very active executive member.

ALAN CHRISTOPHER STYLES born in 1937 at Napier was the son of Louis Styles, an original member. He trained at Morrison and Gilberd Ltd in 1955-57, gained his S.D.O. in 1957 and then proceeded to the Northampton College and London Refraction Hospital, obtaining his F.B.O.A. He was secretary of the Contact Lens Society for two years. His interests include motor racing, yachting, tennis and squash. He is the president of the local branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand and a council member of the Automobile Association. He was president 1972-73-74 and has continued as a council member.

LEX BARCLAY GROCOTT born at Hamilton in 1938 was educated at Hamilton Boys' High School 1957-60. After one year at University, he trained under his father and was tutored by Mr P. F. Waterhouse. He gained his S.D.O.N.Z. in 1960 and in 1961, as a special student, was awarded L.O.Sc. from Melbourne. He won the N.Z. Jaycee oratory contest in 1968 and was a senator in 1974. He co-authored a booklet with Mr A. G. Bott on "Design of Rooms" and taught industrial vision, ethics and room design 1975-77-78 at Auckland. For three months in 1976 he was a clinic supervisor at the Illinois College of Optometry. He attended the conference of A.O.A. and was president of the Civic Trust in 1975. He was president 1974-75-76.

DESMOND CLYDE MOSS was born in Wellington and educated at Wellington College and Victoria University. He trained with Mr G. E. Cox and graduated with the State Examinations in 1956. He was elected to Council in 1963 and has served continuously since then. He assisted with submissions to the Royal Commission on Social Security and to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Act. He was organiser of seminars for a number of years, and also Director of Examinations for the Opticians Board. He is a former chairman and secretary of Wellington Branch, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. He was president 1976-77-78-79.

JOHN DEREK ADAM was born in 1936 in New Plymouth and educated at Palmerston North Boys' High School. He commenced his training with the Standard Optical Company and gained his professional training under the tutorship of Messrs N. C. Holland and Barry and Beale. Following qualifying S.D.O.N.Z. in 1958, he attended the London School of Optometry and at the rooms of John De Carle received tuition in contact lens practice. After leaving the partnership of Barry and Beale he commenced private practice in Newmarket, Auckland, in 1965. He has been a past secretary and chairman of the Auckland Branch of the Optometrical Association and was first elected to Council in 1970. He held the chairmanships of the Scholarship Committee, National Education Committee and Vision Research Committee. He is an external assessor at the Auckland University. He was elected vice-president in 1977 and president in 1979. Married with two sons, his interests include private flying and golf.

SECRETARIES

JAMES P. STOUPPE was born in 1899 and educated to secondary level at Newtownards, County Down, Northern Ireland. He came to New Zealand with his parents as a teenager and resided at Hataitai. He became a registered accountant, Secretary to the Institute of Optometrists 1922, and continued as secretary of the Institute of Opticians until 1936, except for a short interval when Mr R. A. Dillon was secretary. He was well-known to all opticians of that era. He wrote a short early history of optical proceedings. From 1936 he worked for Dominion Optical Supplies Ltd until 1938. He was subsequently engaged in wholesale trading, being joined by Mr B. Ferguson in 1957. He died in 1959.

LAURENCE ARTHUR NOTLEY—See biographical notes as president 1949-50.

"In days of old when glasses were sold
and fees did not add to their prices,
the public at large were aware the charge
was for goods and not for advices.
No blame could be laid if the deal that was made
did not satisfy all eye complications
for the purchasers voice alone made the choice
there being no "Optom Relations".
With passing of time and knowledge sublime
that optometry's come to the fore,
Patients relax whilst hoping that facts
Have minimised guesswork of yore.

(L.A.N. 1979)

HERBERT BISHOP SHEPHERDSON was born in England

and migrated when five years old. After four years at the Wellington Technical College (1921-24), he matriculated and also gained his Engineering Preliminary. He changed to an accountancy programme while working at the Public Trust Office, Scott Timber Company and Caltex Oil (N.Z.) Ltd. He was admitted to the N.Z. Society of Accountants in 1935 and elected a Fellow Chartered Accountant in 1969. After 1936 he entered professional practice with G. H. Mooney until he commenced public practice in May 1947 and was also appointed secretary of N.Z.O.A. in the same month. He continued as secretary with debonair bonhomie until June 1969—22 years. He is now semi-retired at Levin and was elected Honorary member in October 1970.

ERIC ROBINSON NEAL was born in London in 1921 and emigrated when six months old. After being educated at Whangarei High School, in 1937 he started accountancy study which was interrupted by 5½ years in Army Engineers, 2 N.Z.E.F. He was admitted to the N.Z. Society of Accountants in 1948. Previously he was the secretary and director of a company in advertising and market research. In 1966 he commenced private practice with Mr C. J. Brydon. In 1974 he accepted an appointment with the Technical Correspondence Institute; soon afterwards was appointed course supervisor and now is supervisor of all accountancy students reading for membership of the Society, as well as those reading for Legal Executive Certificate. He was appointed N.Z.O.A. secretary in 1969. For six years he was an Upper Hutt Borough Councillor, in his second term as chairman of the Finance Committee. He has a taste for power flying, gliding, gardening, golf, science fiction and scouting. He is married with three sons.

THREE GENERATION FAMILIES OF OPTOMETRISTS

THE DICK FAMILY - Here in Dunedin with this family was enacted a fulsome genealogy. In 1889 in the Octagon, the original Peter Dick conducted a jewellery business with a small stock of ready-made spectacles. He changed to larger premises at 490 Moray Place around 1900. He then took his son, Peter George, into apprenticeship as a watchmaker. After study with the Philadelphia School of Optics by correspondence, the latter gained a doctorate in optics and set up a consulting room under the staircase, behind two shop windows. Peter George left for England in 1914 and gained his D.B.O.A. exam in 1916. After being stranded in Java due to the war, he eventually arrived back in Dunedin and gave his real attention to optics. His son Peter Norman, joined as a watchmaker apprentice in 1925, so as to learn a trade, yet his leanings were to optics. With fellow local students, Messrs E. R. Boyd, L. N. Medlin, S. F. Duncan, R. A. Watson and H. S. Taylor he pursued the Suckling School of Optics programme aided by Mr Garfield Anderson's tuition in physiological optics. The practice was shifted upstairs at this time (around 1928) although access was still through the jewellery shop.

With the sudden early death of Mr Peter George Dick in 1930, Mr R. A. Bridgman was introduced as the qualified refractionist. Mr Peter Norman Dick qualified in 1932 and eventually succeeded Mr Bridgman. The combined business was shifted to 59 Princes Street in 1935 with the optical department rather cramped despite its financial primacy. Mr P. N. Dick volunteered as an instrument mechanic in the Air force but the night before his departure to Whenuapai a commission was offered in the Army Optician Service. Mr W. Gosling was employed as a replacement in Dunedin. Soon after the war, the practice was transferred to redesigned premises immediately upstairs and with a separate entrance from the downstairs jewellery shop.

At the end of 1958 a son, Peter Leslie, commenced training and qualified in 1961. Now the practice had a separate staircase fully separated from the jewellery business which was sold in 1970. Seizing a suitable opportunity, the optometry practice of Messrs Peter Norman and Peter Leslie was transferred to new downstairs quarters at 17 Moray Place in 1973 and was redesigned and newly equipped. Mention should also be recorded here of Mr Rognvald Dick of 2 N.Z.E.F. who qualified with S.D.O.N.Z. in 1940 and who passed F.B.O.A. (Hons) in 1947. He took up an appointment at the Ophthalmic Department, Dunedin Hospital, but died prematurely in 1948. His memory is perpetuated by the R. S. Dick Memorial Lecture at the London Refraction Hospital.

THE BENNET FAMILY

HAROLD MOUNTFIELD BENNETT, third president of the Institute 1946-47 (see page 139)

BROMLEY MOUNTFIELD BENNETT, son of the above, was born in January 1912 at Masterton, and educated at Napier Boys' High School. He voyaged to Britain in 1932 and returned to New Zealand in 1935 with Honours examinations of the B.O.A. and S.M.C. and the Refraction Hospital Certificate. He practised in Napier until accepting command of No. 6 Optician Unit (Mobile) covering all the lower half of the North Island. This unit came under fire during the Japanese revolt at Featherston. There followed a short tour of duty to Norfolk Island. Having obtained Sections A and B in N.Z. in 1931-32, he completed the S.D.O.N.Z. in 1944. He is a past president of the Contact Lens Society, sometime member of the N.Z.O.A. Executive, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is director of the Optometric Extension programme. An extensive traveller with his wife, Mary, he has attended and delivered papers at many American congresses and at the International Optical Congress in 1961. He recently attended the 350th celebrations of the S.M.C.

QUENTIN MOUNTFIELD BENNETT, son of the above, was born in 1941 at Dannevirke and attended Napier Boys' High School. He proceeded to read at Northampton College and later at City University, London. He qualified F.B.O.A. and F.S.M.C. Then followed two years private practice at Falun, Sweden, where he married Christina Turesson. He joined his father in Napier in 1967. He undertook a study tour of the U.S.A. in 1971 including a sojourn at the U.S.A.F. School of Aerospace Medicine working on hyperbaric air pressure on corneal shape. He has numerous papers in British, American and New Zealand publications including the 49th A.N.Z.A.A.S. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and is president of the Contact Lens Society. He is a keen skier and an investigator, photographer and writer on underwater diving.

THE GROCOTT FAMILY

HAROLD GROCOTT was born at Euston, London, about 1880. He opened a pharmacy in Roxburgh around 1904 after qualifying under Mr Wilkinson of Dunedin. Later he moved to Hamilton and finally went to Australia in 1913 gaining the N.S.W. Diploma in Optics under Dr Peterson. In 1919 he proceeded to Britain where he gained his F.S.M.C. before returning to New Zealand. He ceased pharmacy somewhat earlier but continued practising optics until 1931. He attended the inaugural meeting of the Institute of Optometrists in 1922. He served on the executive in 1929 and was always closely associated with optometrical affairs. He was an original member of the Institute of Opticians in 1930. He was a foundation member of Rotary in Hamilton and was a founder of the Hospital Sunshine League. He represented New Zealand unofficially in bowls at the Empire Games in London.

ERIC HAROLD GROCOTT, son of above. President 1955-57 (see page 143)

LEX BARCLAY GROCOTT, son of above. President 1974-76 (see page 146)

THE NEILL FAMILY

HUGH NEILL was born at Outram in May 1884. As Hugh Neill's maternal grandfather and three sons (Baird) had all practised as opticians in Glasgow, he proceeded to Glasgow for training and passed the D.B.O.A. examination in 1904 (the second New Zealander to do so). He practised in Dunedin and country districts from 1905. At that time an examination and spectacles were usually seven shillings and sixpence. Throughout his life he was plagued by periods of ill-health but was secretary of the Otago Association pre-war. He died in 1952.

GORDON KIRKPATRICK NEILL, brother of Hugh Neill. Fourth president 1947-48 (see page 139)

REGINALD ALFRED BAKER M.C., son-in-law of Hugh Neill, entered the practice after qualifying S.D.O. in 1945 and remained in the partnership until his retirement in 1973. He was Vice-President 1966-67.

GRAHAM ELDER NEILL was born in June 1918, the son of Hugh, and was educated at John McGlashan College. After being in the R.N.Z.A.F. 1939-45, he qualified in 1946 and entered the partnership with Messrs G. K. Neill and R. A. Baker. The long-established instrument and photographic section was separated from the optical practice in 1973. He is a member of the Dunedin Rotary Club and has widespread sporting and family interests.

DAVID OWEN NEILL was born in September 1944, the son of Graham. He was educated at Otago and Auckland Universities. He was a member of the first class in the optometry course. He graduated Dip. Opt. in 1967, was the winner of the first N.Z.O.A. Scholarship, graduated B.Sc. in 1968 and M.Sc. (Hons) 1970. Also he was a winner of a Ph.D. travelling scholarship. He entered the family practice in 1972. He is active in church and youth affairs and is a keen gardener. He has two daughters.

THE PEACOCK FAMILY

MR THOMAS PEACOCK J.P. was born in 1837 in Glasgow and arrived in New Zealand in 1862. He had been trained as an optician and instrument maker by Gardner and Co. and a Mr White in Glasgow. He commenced business in Shortland Street, Auckland as the first optician. His spectacles were steel or nickel with flat lenses. He devised a method of testing each eye separately and later a means for investigating astigmatism. He was Mayor of Auckland in 1878-79 and member of Parliament for Auckland North, then Newton, and finally Ponsonby from 1881-90. He served on the Auckland Grammar School Board of Governors, the Education Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Savings Bank (46 years), South British Insurance, the Gas Company, Northern Roller Mills and the Auckland Institute and Museum. He died in 1922, aged 85.

MR JAMES ALEXANDER PEACOCK joined his father in the practice and in 1907 studied in London under Lionel Laurance and so gained his F.S.M.C. He developed the ophthalmic practice and in 1911 he brought from America the lens making equipment to provide compound lenses. In 1922 he assisted in forming the Auckland Association of Optometrists and was the first president in 1922-23. He was a foundation member of the Institute of Opticians 1930, a keen Rotarian and a director of the Northern Roller Mills and the Gas Company. He died in 1944, aged 72.

MR THOMAS DARTNALL PEACOCK, grandson of the founder, joined the practice in 1917 and in 1923 he studied at Columbia University College of Optometry, New York. After graduating in 1925, he pursued a clinical course at the London Refraction Hospital and gained his F.S.M.C. and F.B.O.A. also in 1925. In 1927 he introduced in its first design the unit type of refraction equipment. In the late nineteen twenties and for years afterwards he was a member of the National Education Committee endeavouring to establish a School of Optometry at University level. He served for five years on the Area 1 Army Medical Board which handled 80,000 men. In 1958 the practice was situated at 58-60 Queen Street. Mr T. D. Peacock retired in October 1976, thus bringing to a close the Peacock contribution of 114 years to New Zealand Optometry.

CHAPTER 10

THE SUPPLY HOUSES

Optometry is a caring profession that uses materials. Initially the materials were ready-made nickel or gold oval frames fitted with flat, convex or concave lenses mostly sold by jewellers and travelling salesmen. Times have changed until now frames in a wide range of materials and measurements, lenses of an almost endless variety of computations and compositions, an amazing array of diagnostic and remedial instruments, an ever increasing refinement in contact lens manufacture and numberless aids and accessories have become available. Printed circuits and computers are even impinging in the technical field. The impact of change and then more change has always been a feature of unfolding history and this chapter is a chronicle of the supply houses' shifting patterns in terms of a half century and more.

The most venerable house was undoubtedly that of Arthur Cocks and Company (N.Z.) Ltd, which sprang from the Sydney company established in 1890 under the chairmanship of Mr Arthur (later Sir Arthur) Cocks. The New Zealand section commenced operations in a sample room in Singer Lane, off Willis Street, Wellington. By 1902, the business had workshop facilities and had shifted to Mr E. W. Mills's premises on the eastern side of Victoria Street. A fully constituted New Zealand company was formed in 1904 and years later the company moved across Victoria Street to Kodak House (upstairs). Larger premises were purchased and occupied in Lower Cuba Street in 1952. The original manager was Mr Horace Cocks, a nephew of Sir Arthur. He was followed by Mr C. W. Shepley, who was for many years, general manager, covering both the optical and jewellery divisions, before finally retiring in 1948. Over a long period he was ably assisted by the ebullient Mr T. L. Cocks, a nephew of the founder, who, aided by an American diploma, gave valuable assistance to the early "sight-testers".

In 1928, an Auckland branch was established with Mr E. H. James as manager. He had been the company's traveller for some years and with him Mr F. Aplin, trained in Wellington, was appointed optical manager. The branch was finally established in O'Connell Street in its own building after the Second World War. A branch with workshop facilities was established in Dunedin and in later years it was managed by Mr T. Kemp and Mr K. A. McPhun, who also supervised a sample and supply room in Christchurch.

Messrs D. A. Cocks and W. W. Brackenridge—the latter joined the Company in March 1925—were appointed joint general managers in 1948. Upon Mr Brackenridge's resignation in 1956, Mr D. A. Cocks continued as sole general manager until his premature death. He was also the Institute's auditor from 1948 to 1967. Then Mr K. A. McPhun was appointed general manager with the head office transferred to Auckland. The Australian company which was separate from the New Zealand business was soon afterwards sold to Hooper-Baillie and its assets fragmented to various other companies. The New Zealand company was sold to Owen Optical Industries, Auckland, who, as a subsidiary of Venelite, proceeded to develop the manufacture of frames and sunglasses. Thereafter the venture was sold to W. S. Sutherland and Co. Ltd, who were basically tanners and general merchants. Sutherland's had financial problems and in 1976 disposed of the optical industries division to Mr R. Leitl who had been its general manager. The Dunedin branch was closed as were Christchurch and Wellington. Mr Leitl disposed of the Auckland workshop to an employee, and it was later closed. So today Arthur Cocks and Company operate from Auckland alone as wholesale optical suppliers and jewellers. They are associated with Gregor Holdings Ltd, who engage in optical and jewellery manufacture with an export orientation. Another subsidiary, International Fashion Eyewear Ltd, founded by Mrs Traude Leitl in 1969, has developed into a wholesale distributor of sunglasses. This group operates from a new complex at Henderson and is currently expanding activities.

In the early years of Arthur Cocks and Company some prescription work was impossible in Wellington and, as was the case in other parts of New Zealand, some lenses, especially compounds, were made in the Sydney and Melbourne workshops. Nevertheless, despite the relative simplicity of the available machinery, this firm trained in mechanical optics a number of men prominent in affairs a little later. No accurate record is available but Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor, A. Mason, L. A. Curtis, J. L. S. Little, W. T. Wilson, D. G. Aurisch, P. H. Campbell, R. C. Abbott and E. D. Savidge received their basic mechanical training there. Also in the pre-war years, this company held the distributing agencies for Bausch and Lomb and the American Optical Company.

The Standard Optical Company's first personality was Mr E. M. Sandston who graduated in England in 1898 and who, on his return, set up a consulting practice in Christchurch. Mr Bernhard Falck was also prominent in Christchurch soon afterwards and became the first general secretary of the short-lived New Zealand Optical Association. (To avoid cofusion, Christian names are generally used in the recital of this Company's history). Messrs Sandston and Falck, both men of commercial initiative, decided to divert their energies into the formation of the "Standard Optical Company of Australasia Ltd", providing workshop and wholesale facilities where Ballantynes stands today. Consideration was given to opening in Australia also. To ensure the necessary technical competence in the prescription area, the services of Mr R. ("Pop") Batstone were co-opted. He had been well trained in England and at that time was working for Mr R. Lonsdale. So commenced the tripartite arrangement of Sandston, Falck and Batstone. In 1919 the Auckland Branch was opened under the control of Mr A. Bengin. Mr Bert Norgrove commenced employment there in 1921, rising to manager in 1938 and retaining that position until his death in 1958. More progress occurred in 1923 when the Dunedin Branch was opened by Mr Norman Bailey who later registered and practised optometry in Palmerston North. He was followed by Mr Stuart Duncan who died in 1971 after 43 years of esteemed service. The firm was rapidly developing into a Falck-Batstone dynasty with the arrival in 1924 of Mr Geoff. Falck and Mr Alf Batstone as workshop juniors. Expansion too occurred in the change of premises to 561 Colombo Street in 1928 at a rental of £200 per annum. Mention must be made of the employment of Mr G. Dainty, an Englishman of great talent and frequently a winner in the mechanical section of the McKinney Cup. He transferred to D.S.I.R. during the war years and later still to Australia where he died prematurely.

Like Messrs A. Cocks and Company in Wellington, in this era the company provided the training ground for many future optometrists some of whom are listed here. Messrs E. W. Purchase, D. G. Aurisch, J. A. Robb, J. Davies, O. Davies, M. W. Cholerton, E. Curtis, R. A. Bridgman, W. T. Wilson, P. F. Waterhouse, J. C. Young, J. Scott, D. A. Penny and P. H. Campbell. Small wonder that with these two companies acting as training grounds, Section B of the State Examinations was able to maintain such a satisfying standard. Mr W. T. Wilson who was employed by both these firms and who qualified in 1927 was a Section B examiner for many years afterwards.

Mr Reg. Batstone, younger son of Mr "Pop" Batstone, joined in 1936 and like all others he commenced as a workshop boy. Two years later Mr Alf Batstone opened the Palmerston North branch and Mr Bernie Falck joined the firm on the warehouse side. Soon afterwards commenced the long years of war shadowed by the worries of the enlistments of Messrs Geoff and Bernie Falck and Reg Batstone and the demands of the Forces. There were also widespread shortages.

Time elapsed; Mr E. Sandston had semi-retired just pre-war; 1945 saw Mr Bernhard Falck's retirement; Mr "Pop" Batstone became managing director and Mr Geoff Falck assumed the Christchurch management after having been in Auckland since 1931. Yet another branch at Hamilton was opened in 1957 with Mr Reg Batstone in charge and in subsequent changes Mr Geoff Falck became managing director. Sadly in 1960 Mr "Pop" Batstone died; the last of the three original executives. The next year Mr John Robb joined the firm and he is now

Christchurch manager. Mr Geoff Falck died suddenly in 1974 of a heart attack and Mr Bernie Falck became general manager until 1979. Mr Reg Batstone has now succeeded him as managing director.

In recent years, all branches have moved to new premises and with the merger with Dominion Optical Supplies, the Company has five laboratories at Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch head office to service all ophthalmic needs.

Dominion Optical Supplies Ltd was formed as a small company in 1933 by Mr and Mrs T. G. Cox, the parents of Mr G. E. Cox. Mr Cox (sen) had always been interested in optical affairs and his impending retirement from the Post Office prompted him to establish a small prescription and supply house which he headed until his death in 1973, aged 86. The initial premises were in Coopers Buildings, opposite the Evening Post in Wellington and Mr K. W. Gentry joined in 1934 followed by Mr B. Haigh in 1936. They both became shareholders and later directors. The early machinery, especially for surfacing, was partly locally made and initially water had to be carried up three flights of stairs.

Mr Gentry enlisted in the Army Instrument Section and later was senior mechanic with 14 Optician Unit,2 N.Z.E.F., whilst Mr B. Haigh joined the infantry. He became a P.O.W. in Greece. Post-war with the safe return of Messrs Haigh and Gentry the company expanded and this necessitated a move in 1955 to larger premises in the Empire Hotel Building opposite the Grand Hotel. Building demolition demanded another location change in 1972 to 128 Wakefield Street. This company too, was the nursery for future optometrists such as Messrs A. B. King, J. M. O. Rawnsley and K. W. Gentry. The last named, noted for his technical and mechanical knowledge, died rather suddenly in 1977.

Messrs B. R. and M. R. Black, sons of optometrist Mr R. F. Black, acquired the shareholding of the business in 1974 with Mr B. R. Black as managing director. New ideas and services such as technical bulletins, newsletters and some local productions were introduced. Another change came in 1979; the company merged with the Standard Optical Company. This afforded the latter company a presence in Wellington and in reverse permitted the flow of local and general expertise from Dominion Optical Supplies. The company had never striven for size and usually held a long-serving staff of about ten persons.

The firm of Morgan and Hall Ltd was established in 1951 as commission selling agents on behalf of importers and manufacturers. A client gave the company the name of Mr J. Lowinger of Timaru who, when approached showed samples of cuff-links, tie-pins etc., and also some spectacle frames from Germany. This company, on a commission basis, undertook the selling of these frames, made by Rodenstock. Sales resistance was considerable with frames costing 15/6 and became even worse still when the pound barrier was reached a little later. Within 2-3 years another German agency was obtained and the marketing of

Rodenstock reverted back to Mr J. Lowinger. Around 1955, Messrs Morgan and Hall commenced their long and fruitful association with Messrs Martin Wells Pty Ltd of Sydney who were represented by Mr E. Hurst and Mr D. Zingarelli. The products, the marketing and the supply improved markedly over the years. Also an agency of high quality Japanese instruments was obtained and developed, and in the ophthalmic lens field the company proudly claims the introduction to New Zealand of the first photochromic lens under the name of "Changelite".

Following an earlier association with Mr P. Thomas of Sydney in the contact lens field, a company, called N.Z. Contact Lens Supplies Ltd, was formed with Hirst Contact Lens Ltd for their manufacture and supply. This was later changed when Hirst Contact Lens and the New Zealand Optical Company joined forces. Morgan and Hall Ltd continued operations from Christchurch and has expanded with the recent relaxations under the NAFTA Trade Agreement.

Mr J. P. Stouppe, a former secretary of the Institute and for a short time an employee of Dominion Optical Supplies commenced his own wholesaling and importing company. Meantime the Australian Optical Company had become quite a large prescription and manufacturing concern throughout Australia. Looking to New Zealand, they joined forces with Mr Stouppe to form the Precision Optical Company Ltd in 1948. Branches with prescription facilities were established in Auckland and Christchurch. The head office and adminstration was located in Wellington. At the height of its activities the Australian company acquired all the shares in Precision Optical. The parent company ran into serious liquidity problems and Polarisers (International) of Johannesburg, looking for manufacturing opportunities, took control. Soon after these changes in 1955-56, Polarisers (N.Z.) Ltd was formed as a full subsidiary of Polarisers International. Still under the name of Precision Optical, the new management eliminated the non-viable activities but continued and improved the prescription activities. Mr W. W. Brackenridge, who had extensive managerial experience, was appointed general manager. The name was changed to the New Zealand Optical Company Ltd and all branches shifted into larger and more modern premises. With the continued expansion of both Polarisers (N.Z.) and the N.Z. Optical Company, Mr L. R. Titmus was appointed general manager of the latter in 1965. A subsidiary company, N.Z. Optical (Wholesale) Ltd, was later formed to control all aspects of the ophthalmic needs.

The Polariser group of companies and subsidiaries, was purchased by Sonn Filter A.G. of Chur, Switzerland. Mr W. W. Brackenridge is a director of each of the six New Zealand companies. Recent acquisitions have been Hirst Contact Lens and N.Z. Contact Lens Supplies in 1978 and a small company now known as Shadze (N.Z.) Ltd. The head office is in Auckland with Mr M. J. Dent as managing director.

When Mr J. P. Stouppe sold his shareholding in Precision Optical Company in 1957, he again commenced operations on his own account at 40 Hobson Street, Wellington. Due to ill health he was joined soon afterwards by Mr B. Ferguson with the latter taking managerial control. Mr Stouppe died some twelve months later. The business, despite the prevailing import controls, continued to expand. In 1974 the name was changed to the J. and B. Optical Co. and operations were shifted from Plimmerton to Thames. The company has continued with a personalised service supplying products from Britain, France, Germany, U.S.A. and also New Zealand productions.

Mr and Mrs Frank Hannaford came to New Zealand with a widow friend, Mrs Anne Burton, in 1932. They carried agencies for Wiseman's optical products, Smith's clocks and Buren watches. Immediately, despite depressed selling conditions, the firm of Hannaford and Burton Ltd became firmly established. In 1950 Mr G. Forsyth joined the company and was soon followed by Mr E. Watson and in 1957 by Mr F. Wallace. A Christchurch branch was opened in 1960 and a Wellington branch in 1968. Mr Hannaford, ever a thrusting force in the earlier years, died in 1956, whilst his original partner, Mrs A. Burton, the quiet thinker, died in June 1978, aged 91. The late fifties saw the new directors, Messrs Forsyth, Watson and Wallace vigorously pursue a policy of manufacturing plastic frames in Auckland. To facilitate expansion, a subsidiary, the Optical Manufacturing Company Ltd was formed in 1964 to further develop the manufacture of spectacle frames and sunglasses. This Company's capacity was expanded in 1969 and again in 1972 for both home and export markets.

In 1976, the firm was widely restructured. A public company known as Optical Holdings Ltd was floated incorporating an optional allotment of shares to optometrists. Three divisions were established:

(a) Hannaford and Burton Ltd, dealing with all optometrical requirements.

(b) Solavoid International, devoted to sunglass manufacture.

(c) Optical Manufacturing Company Ltd, engaged in spectacle frame production.

The spectacle frame need within New Zealand is estimated at 400,000 units per annum and the sunglass market at 500,000. A recent detailed survey suggested about 1110 frames per optometrist each year. The Optical Manufacturing Company supply a substantial part of the plastic frame market with supplementary outlets in Australia, South Africa and Britain. The directorate has achieved modern premises, highly automated production and is orientated to large supply. The group has not been attracted to prescription work despite various surveys of this field. In 1978, Mr Lindsay Wallace was appointed general manager upon the retirement of his father, Mr F. Wallace, as managing director.

Before the war, a small importing company situated in Nathans

Buildings, Wellington, and known as the Wholesale Distributing Company, traded in a variety of items from golf clubs to pearl necklaces and it held the agency for Marwitz and Hauser spectacle wear from Stuttgart. The optical representative was Mrs H. Sinclair who was the co-partner in the company with her husband. Mrs Sinclair was appointed an Associate member of the Institute in 1949 and resigned in 1958. Subsequently the company was purchased by the Callaghan family and the business location changed to Lower Hutt. Agencies have been widened with the acquisition of selling rights for an American firm and also recently for Zeiss ophthalmic lenses.

In a different sphere, in the early war years, Prosthetics Processors was established by Mr Gene Hirst. It was soon to become involved in optometry as related in the chapter on contact lenses, and Mr Hirst became involved in all the perplexities of haptic lenses. Meantime Mr D. Mortimer, who qualified in 1946, had also become interested in contact lenses with Mr A. Rose in Christchurch. Mr Mortimer in 1950 joined Mr Hirst in forming Hirst Contact Lens Ltd. The company rapidly developed and was constantly moving with technical developments or was introducing innovative processes. A major event was the initial development of a soft lens by a Czechoslovakian compatriot of Mr Hirst in 1964 and so New Zealand was the first foreign country to use this new material. Supplying nearly all of New Zealand's requirements, Mr Hirst became a travelling lecturer and businessman. Hirst techniques and technology have spread to many countries, especially to Japan. Today Mr Hirst is semi-retired but a large highly skilled organisation headed by Mr Mortimer continues on.

No attempt has been made to catalogue the technical changes within these supply houses over the fifty year period. That would require a separate complex treatise. Rather, the stories of these supply houses have been recorded from a human viewpoint, because the personnel were very agreeable, likeable people all with individual charactertistics, quirks, and even eccentricities. Mixed with the concerns of business, there was always a real consideration for optometry's welfare and a helping hand or a kindly word was extended to many an individual optometrist. For many years the leading figures in each firm were accepted as full honorary members of the Institute or Association—a status well merited.

The firms supported all the Institute's activities with a smile and with generous contributions. The local Associations, the local socials or picnics, the McKinney Cup, the Wellington Clinic, and all the annual Conferences were occasions of help in service or money. When war came, the prescription houses rallied to co-operate with the fledgling Optician Service by providing manpower, equipment and supplies. So too, as the years flowed on, they were in the forefront in the financial contribution needed to establish the Auckland Diploma of Optometry and the supply of equipment at minimum cost. In no facet of optometrical development were these friends and associates backward.

Equally, without advertisement, they have, according to their separate capabilities assisted any and many optometrists who have been in need; sometimes it was specialised advice; sometimes it was financial or procedural advice; sometimes it was a helping hand in some personal problem; sometimes it was in major decision-making but in whatever ambit of human activity, the assistance was forthcoming par excellence.

They, like the personnel in optometry's ranks, have seen one, two or three generations appear and exert their life-time influence caring, sharing and building better than they knew.

CHAPTER 11

THE CONTACT LENS FIELD

DREAMS OFTEN COME TRUE

The scientific dreaming of Thomas Young in 1798 has come true—perhaps, like most dreams, it has been modified drastically in the hard world of practice.

It was the same Young who pioneered the undulatory theory of light and with Helmholtz expounded the famous Young-Helmholtz theory of colour vision. Herschel, the English astronomer, mentioned the idea again in 1827. After 1884 anaesthetics enabled moulds to be made of the cornea and adjacent sclera, and from these Zeiss glass workers struggled to produce a workable product. At the same time a Swiss physician, Dr E. Fick, made the first lens for ametropia and it was he who coined the name contact lens.

In New Zealand the first known attempt at sclero-corneal fitting was attempted by Dr J. H. Beaumont and Mr G. E. Cox in Wellington in 1939. Zeiss glass lenses were used; the results are unrecorded.

Later in the war years, the same doctor collaborated with Mr G. Hirst using an anaesthetic to produce the first haptic plastic lenses after further attempts with Zeiss glasses were unsuccessful. By 1946, Mr Hirst in co-operation with Dr W. Hope-Robertson had suitable regulations drafted and accepted by the Social Security Department for necessitous cases. These regulations, extended as required to include all the later refinements, remained in force until quite recently. The first contact lens clinic was established at Auckland in 1945, soon followed by Mr A. H. T. Rose in Christchurch in 1946, as well as Messrs P. N. Dick and R. A. Bridgman in Dunedin, Messrs Morrison and Gilberd Ltd in Wellington, Mr R. C. Bailey in Palmerston North and Mr W. M. P. Barry in Auckland. As the next ten years went by it became obvious to all, that contact lens practice had surely arrived to stay. Consequently on the invitation of the Institute, a preliminary meeting of practitioners was held, coinciding with the 1958 Rotorua Conference. Mr R. A. Bridgman was elected president with the following personnel present: Messrs G. E. Cox, S. J. Hedge, P. K. Heginbotham, J. McKinnon, J. F. Montgomery, D. M. Mortimer, R. N. Pennington, A. H. T. Rose and J. A. Fairmaid (secretary). The Contact Lens Society emerged as an independent organisation, since it was obvious from its commencement that it desired to embrace both ophthalmology and optometry. Its formal statement set out that "The New Zealand Contact Lens Society is a learned society established to promote research in the field of contact lenses, to promote the interchange of experience, and to set out and maintain standards of ethical conduct. Founded in 1958, the Society is open to those members of the N.Z. Ophthalmological Society and the N.Z. Optometrical Association who engage, or have an interest, in contact lens practice. Meetings should be held annually."

In those early years there was some argument and confusion. Guidelines were few. Individual practitioners each had their own personal experiences. The whole practice of contact lens work had not yet become formalised. Debates were prolonged; the first meeting closed at 2.30 a.m., the second at midnight, and the third was adjourned about 3 a.m. These mammoth debates finally established the principle that the Society would be an academic body and political matters would be left to other organisations. The aims were simplified and the membership qualifications extended. Within a year the membership had increased to 32. The Optometrical Association had had misgivings regarding the aims and functions of this separate Society but within a few years it was apparent that the Association and the Society could and would work in harmony. The presence and contribution of ophthalmological members within the Society was of special value in producing more liaison and understanding between the two professions. No one today would question the wisdom of this procedure.

The feeling grew within the Optometrical Association that it should have a defined policy on contact lens practice and so it was that the Council in March 1963 set forth the guidlines as outlined in Chapter Seven.

The Society had many controversial matters to discuss over the years such as: the distribution of a register of practitioners, import licensing problems, the coding of contact lens specifications, functioning within Social Security for some cases, contact lens insurance, courses of instruction and examination and the hardy annual of the use of the term "Contact Lens Practitioner". Common sense, experience and time have solved these matters. Overall the Society has been a powerful instrument in establishing a high level of practice and a free-flowing relationship between first of all its own members, then a new relationship between the two professions involved, and lastly, through its members' ministrations, it has effected a major impact on the public's appreciation of the scope of vision care.

Some mention should be made of the contribution and influence of the two contact lens laboratories and their co-operation with the Society. They could well have, because of their function, engaged in unhappy advertising and public competition, but to their credit they were more technically orientated. As one member described it, the respective laboratories of Messrs G. Hirst and P. Thomas were continually engaged in a sort of "back-surface leap frog" which was of tremendous benefit and kept New Zealand in the forefront of world developments. The laboratories had been continually active in the refinements of manufacturing and design and the passing on of overseas research and development.

The main strength of the Society was in the fact that it had a predominantly youthful membership concerned with a developing science which offered a continuing challenge. So its recruitment nearly always embraced new graduates with their agile, flexible approaches; it involved new orientation, approaches and instrumentation, and set new pathways to changes in eye-care and motivation factors in both practitioner and patient.

Of recent date, the memberhip reached more than 180, plus thirteen honorary members. This represented much of the overall practising strength of the two professions. The transactions of each annual meeting were published and formed a comprehensive record of New Zealand's contribution. Abstracts from overseas literature, when they were deemed applicable, were circularised to all members. In 1978, the Society in association with its sister Society in Australia organised a highly successful International Congress in Fiji to take its rightful place with those periodically held in America and Europe. To further assist with international contacts, several of the Society's annual meetings have been graced with addresses from world authorities.

The office bearers have been as follows:-

	PRESIDENT		**SECRETARY**
1958/60	R. A. Bridgman	1958/62	J. A. Fairmaid
1961	A. H. T. Rose		
1962/63	B. M. Bennett	1963	M. D. Irwin
1964/65	P. K. Heginbotham	1964/67	S. P. Salek
1966/67	J. A. Fairmaid		
1968/69	D. W. Sabiston	1968/69	A. C. Styles
1970/71	D. M. Mortimer	1970/71	M. G. Webber
1972/73	J. J. Connor	1972/76	P. C. Dunlop
1974/75	J. B. Sturtevant		
1976/77	R. N. Pennington	1977-	E. G. Blomfield
1978/79	Q. M. Bennett		
1979/80	Q. M. Bennett		

Some aspects of the pioneer story of Mr Gene Hirst, a trained Czechoslovakian dental technician, produced fascinating history. By 1938, the Obrig Laboratory in America had successfully used a new plastic product, poly-methyl-methacrylate (P.M.M.A.). Due to wartime shortages, Mr Hirst used plastic moulded from dental material and later from discarded Air Force windscreens. The first attempt at mouldings from plaster casts was disastrous. Gradually his attention was turned to grinding and lathe work with all the unknown effects of carborundum powders on P.M.M.A. The first lens took three months of painstaking work but the patient had 90% vision when this "prototype" was fitted! The patient could then care for her children.

The haptic era had commenced. So had the innumerable problems of the physiology and bio-chemistry of the anterior segment of the eye, the geography of the neighbouring areas of the limbus, the topography of the cornea, the clearance of conjunctival vessels and many others. Adequate oxygen supply to the cornea was found to be essential and various methods were tried to ensure this. The significant discovery in all this was that some haptic lenses were tolerated with corneal touch proving that, somewhat unexpectedly, the cornea would accept some mechanical pressure. Nevertheless, and in spite of the fact that they are rarely used today, haptic lenses did set up the techniques and knowledge to permit the introduction of corneal lenses.

Thus, in 1948 Tuohy fitted the first corneal lenses of P.M.M.A. involving their positioning solely on the cornea. The early ones were about 11 mm diameter and 0.4mm thick. Thereby arose all the problems of osmotic pressure, pH values, surface tension, fluid flow, bacteriology and aspects of physiological optics. All these studies were new to optometrists—indeed they were new to everyone—but fortunately the education levels were, by now, such as to permit the development of these subjects as an extension of the general optometric knowledge. This was indeed a new ball game but the basic skills and background had been acquired. There have been many forms of corneal lenses all enabling some new assessment of diameter or back surface influences, edge contours, varying indices and aspheric curves. Amongst some practitioners there was also the tantalising idea, and indeed the gamble, to mimic the corneal topography in whole or in part if it could be uniformly established. Recently, oxygen permeable materials such as cellulose acetyle butyrate and silicon rubber have been introduced. The C.A.B. was introduced into New Zealand (1976) as the first gas permeable hard lens. This was followed in 1977 by silicon - P.M.M.A. material and 1979 saw the introduction of further variations in permeable materials. The search for the ideal material is still proceeding. Most patients initially have some discomfort or irritation. There is sometimes an increased sensitivity to glare or dust and often some blur from lens dehydration. Lenses overworn or fitted too tightly can cause painful epithelial oedema. Patients with keratoconus, myopia over ten dioptres or monocular aphkia are eligible, on approval, for free fitting and supply under the Social Security benefit provisions. New Zealand was the first country to supply such a service.

The essential construction of these newer materials has been a number of molecular chains linked into a crossed network producing an intricate meshwork. With chemical juggling of the molecular constructions and balances, elasticity, hydration qualities and strength can be varied considerably. One pre-requisite has always been adequate oxygen porosity. The first Bionite lenses were about 0.35 mm thickness with a 60% water content. These were replaced by the H.E.M.A. lens of 0.20 mm thickness and 40% water content. The latter have proved to be more durable, especially to boiling and also can be made to toric form. They are probably the most popular type of soft lenses. The advantages are largely in comfort. There is little awareness of a soft lens in situ as the edge merges into the scleral conjunctiva. They are free of dust problems and are ideal for sports as ejection is rare. Furthermore they are usually interchangeable with glasses.

The first of these Wichterle soft lenses has been considerably modified and often is of aspheric contour. Experience has shown that about six base diameter parameters are sufficient to fit most patients. Observation of the lens behaviour, to maintain adequate stability yet with corneal touch over the pupil aperture to give good refraction, will provide the basic critical criteria.

Sterilisation of contact lenses has been a major consideration. Hard lenses presented few such problems but soft lenses must be stored in a physiological solution. Unless this solution is self-sterilising or heated it will culture micro-organisms. Yet heat reduces the life-span of soft lenses and a lazy patient is at risk. Thus cases have occurred of prolonged wearing complications of disputed aetiology, and the whole area of ensuring continuing good corneal health is most critical in the soft lens field.

Continuous wear has been attempted with few patients since the first Tuohy lenses. The physiology of the sleeping eye has been largely unknown yet continuous wear would be a major gain for the elderly aphakic wearers. The contact lens clinic at Dunedin Hospital was the first in New Zealand to report on continuous wear and on the medical uses of soft lenses. This clinic is conducted by an optometrist in association with ophthalmic registrars. After investigation it was found that at least four lens materials of about 70% water content were being tried overseas. Such lenses were fitted in private practice in Dunedin in 1977. Much caution was exercised with their removal for inspection, at about weekly to monthly intervals, for constant monitoring for neovascularisation due to prolonged hypoxia, lysozyme concentration and toxic debris accumulation. The corneal epithelium and stroma needed checking periodically for any incipient reaction.

It was quickly found that soft lenses had to be fitted in a semiscleral fashion because the material was such that small diameters were unstable. These basic concepts have been applied to the soft lens back surface design:

(a) A simple cut back surface with a very thin edge to combine the properties of flexibility and adequate bearing surfaces.

(b) A surface with more than one curvature, usually bi-curve to give a wide scleral bearing surface with minimal capillary constriction.

(c) The aspheric concept, whilst originating with the hard lens, can, with modifications, be applied to the larger soft lens to avoid capillary interference.

The evolvement of the ideal material has yet to happen. It involves the incorporation of several basic criteria but the technology and design features are capable of considerable variation fortunately aided by much accumulated knowledge. Such progress could lead to the first truly disposable contact lens.

Optometry has contributed much to the contact lens field and in return contact lenses have contributed to general optometric practice. The contact lens practitioner has used his extended knowledge of the anterior ocular segment physiology, biochemistry and pathology for his spectacle patients. He has developed expertise with the slit-lamp and other instruments which have enabled him to use techniques such as tonometry with confidence, and undoubtedly the status of the profession has risen considerably, especially with the young and to some extent with the old. Additionally there has been the glamour of a speciality with unresearched possibilities to excite many new graduates and also those yet to decide on a career. Like all newer things, it has achieved through the years in those practices where contact lenses were introduced, a reasonable emphasis and balance and the development has been carefully controlled alongside longer established visual correction procedures. The Contact Lens Society has fulfilled and will continue to fulfil two paramount functions; firstly it has maintained a dignified ethical atmosphere amongst its members well-freed from commercialism or exploitation; and secondly it has developed and sustained a high order of comradeship between the two professions intimately involved in this joyful and joy-giving field.

CHAPTER 12

THE STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION

"Watch the boy who has to plunge into work direct from school, and who begins by sweeping out the office. He is probably the dark horse you had better watch."

(Andrew Carnegie)

"Do not ask if a man has been through college; ask if a college has been through him—if he is a walking university."

(E. H. Chapin)

One of the original aims of the Institute in 1930 was "to foster the growth and diffusion of optical knowledge" or reworded in the 1965 Handbook "to promote education facilities for students of optometry". Pre-war planning demonstrated a devotedness to this ideal in the development of and dedication to the Wellington Clinic and also to its post-war survival, all of which has been recorded elsewhere. Concurrent was the burning desire to "progress" in education. All the ideas and ideals were without question altruistically based and the narrative of this thorny problem can adequately commence about wartime. In the five years 1934-38, 24 candidates passed Section D. Of these, 10 graduates then proceeded overseas for post-graduate training. Allowing £300 per annum and only one year per student (most stayed longer), this represented an outlay of considerably more than £3,000 in five years for higher education. The desire for more and better was in both students' and members' blood alike. In the early war days, Mr A. H. T. Rose twice propounded a special annual subscription of ten shillings to commence an Education Fund and as well, Mr G. E. Cox held exploratory talks with the Registrar of the University of New Zealand, Dr G. Currie. Meantime some good, stimulating work was being done in Christchurch by Mr W. B. Bland on orthoptics and migraine under the auspices of the Canterbury Optical Society. Some lull naturally occurred in the darkest days of war but in 1943 the Education Committee of Messrs H. M. Bennett (chairman), H. Atkinson, T. D. Peacock, G. K. Neill and T. G. Young had held a meeting to consider principles and policy, and the last two named members were entrusted with exploring the possibilities of some lectures at Otago University.

By conference time, the Auckland members of this committee tabled a report of all embracing proportions, which surveyed the present facilities and the difficulties of substantial up-grading. Two alternatives seemed possible: (a) a gradual change of present methods towards an eventual University course: perhaps a full-time instructor, adequate facilities, centralisation and good clinical material would all be necessary; also finance: or (b) a summary change to a School of Optometry at a University College. To Messrs Peacock and Atkinson this latter course had as much feasability as proposal (a) as well as the advantage of a campus and faculty atmosphere. A long and detailed presentation of the suggested subjects and prescriptions followed embracing a study period of four years. Many factors would determine the geographical location which was not considered to be of major importance at that stage. Allowing for a total roll of 48 students with fees of around £35 p.a. for each student, there would be an Institute liability of £1370 p.a. after establishment costs of £4652. It might be possible to obtain pound for pound subsidy from the Government, or an Education Department grant, or student bursaries, and if so any of these would reduce the contribution required by Institute subscription levy. The Education Committee was instructed to pursue and develop these proposals. They were the first comprehensive depositions envisaging a University course and their concept is indeed of great interest when compared with later developments. They were rightly orientated and supported by a wide consensus within the general membership.

Rehabilitation of servicemen became an immediate problem and as they were in all stages of the State Examinations at the time of their enlistment, the Institute, the Opticians Board and the rehabilitation authorities all viewed each case in a sympathetic way. For example one person sponsored by the Rehabilitation Department pursued a splendid course in Britain.

The Committee, one year later, concurred with Auckland and Otago University advice in designing a three year course initially. A re-assessment showed overall financial needs had reached £7650 and the Conference of 1944 was determined to raise £5000 and then to approach Health, Education and Rehabilitation Departments for the remainder. The principle was "We will do our part". Around this time, 1944, Mr H. C. Collett replaced Mr H. M. Bennett, chairman of the committee, who had laboured for more than twenty years in the education field.

Much had been widely devised; now came the long haul to activate the Opticians Board, the Minister of Health and Cabinet. Firstly the Board was approached explaining that Mathematics I, Physics I and Zoology I would comprise the first year with a pass in at least two subjects being required. Then the student would pass to the "School of Visual Optics" to be regulated by a Control Board. The Ministers of Health and Education were interviewed with the Institute offering £2500 as part of the initial cost. Mr Nordmeyer (Health) was interested but he later intimated by letter than in view of the small numbers involved, the scheme appeared somewhat ambitious. Simultaneously Mr H. S. Gilberd very generously accepted the onerous task of canvassing all members for appropriate donations. He subsequently travelled throughout all New Zealand.

Following this ministerial rebuff, two alternatives were then considered. Firstly, to enlarge the Wellington School of Optics to two months duration using the interest only from the Education Fund to assist in expenses. Secondly, it was suggested that investigations should begin on co-operation with the Australian College of Optometry in Melbourne on lines similar to those adopted for veterinary surgeons elsewhere in Australia. The 1946 Conference accepted a resolution that the Executive be empowered, if necessary, to send a personal representative to Melbourne for discussions and the gathering of information. Mr A. H. T. Rose, ever reluctant to by-pass local education, proposed a new interim education scheme involving Physics I (1st year) and Zoology I (2nd year). These subjects would improve the students' "background" knowledge and thus permit specialised ophthalmic studies to proceed in a more rational manner.

The Education Committee, chaired by Mr G. K. Neill, now finalised its new syllabus of training and the Opticians Board concurred whilst also stating that better training facilities were essential. A deputation to the new Minister of Health (Miss Mabel Howard) was received sympathetically but the Minister stated she would have to study the departmental files. Stalemate seemed to be the situation throughout much of 1947-48 with no ministerial action and this state persisted despite many attempts to make contact by deputation even in 1949. The only item of note was a fresh consideration of the Australian possibilities raised by Mr G. E. Cox. This produced later in the year a far-reaching request to the Opticians Board to utilise the Australian College with the first year of study taken at a N.Z. University and that the N.Z. State Examination be phased out. The Board approved and so recommended to the Minister.

As the attitude of the Institute became known, students availed themselves of the Melbourne facilities or prepared to do so. To be conversant with all aspects, the Executive in June 1950 sent Messrs R. Brooke-Taylor and G. E. Cox to Melbourne to hold discussions with the College Council and the Secretary of the Faculty of Science and Medicine. The ensuing report was most favourable but the course, being of four years' duration, was expensive for students. It was suggested that approval be sought from donors to the Education Fund to permit some loan system to necessitous students. Costs per annum per student varied and estimates ranged from £200 (Mr Cox) to nearly £500 (Mr Collett). Following some discussions, the Minister in June 1951 doubted the wisdom of adopting an overseas education entirely. A compromise evolved by recommending the adoption of a compulsory pre-requisite

University intermediate year; then the student could opt for continuing with the local syllabus updated in content and text-books, or proceeding to Melbourne for a three year course. Meantime the Melbourne Diploma (Licentiate of Optometrical Science L.O.Sc.) was gazetted as an acceptable qualification in the third schedule for registration. Mr R. J. Sargent was the first successful New Zealander. He qualified in 1950. The pre-requisite conditions were designed to commence in 1956, but meantime an interest free loan scheme was authorised by memorandum in July 1952 for those attending the Australian College. Briefly, the scheme would cover the three years of Australian education, the loan would be interest free, there would be an outside guarantor, reports of suitability etc. from two Institute members and repayment spread over a three year period after qualification. Meantime, permission had been obtained to use monies from the Education Fund now standing at £2309 (1952). The Conference felt that some fund should also be available to assist those students who elected to stay and study in New Zealand and Mr W. S. Holland successfully moved a motion "that up to £200 per year be set aside as a special Tutorial Fund." So arose a separate fund appearing in the accounts from then on as the Tutorial Fund.

The National Education Committee, given an adequate mandate from the General Executive, was now composed of Messrs H. Atkinson, S. Mayer, A. H. T. Rose, M. W. Cholerton, L. N. Medlin and G. K. Neill (chairman). It had the task of overseeing three schemes:—

(a) The trainee scheme that had operated for many years.
(b) The new "internal scheme" requiring a University pre-requisite year and the reorganistion of the examination syllabus.
(c) The "external scheme" utilising the facilities at the Australian College of Optometry. By this time four students were undertaking this course.

In addition the British Optical Association was prepared to lend all possible assistance; in particular granting special privileges to New Zealand graduates who desired post-graduate and clinical education. The Committee was quite aware of the disparity in standard between the New Zealand and the Melbourne graduates. The former would have, as in the past, a very practical approach whilst the Melbourne graduate would be more academic in his orientation. Perhaps each could have merits and benefits and some inter-mingling of these differing qualities could stimulate and benefit optometry on a national level.

The long tacit agreement on the pre-requisite University year was translated into reality by the passing of the necessary Regulations in 1954 requiring Physics IA, Zoology I and Chemistry I. Also thanks to the co-operation of Dr Schofield, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at Otago University, a course of studies for Section C had already been instituted. Mr G. K. Neill, the author of this activity, felt it would raise the basic appreciation of general and ocular anatomy and the consequential flow-on studies. The Dunedin prescriptions were broadened subsequently to include some physiology and general and ocular pathology. The 1955 Conference assisted by the presence of Mr G. H. Giles, moved further on the winding road of progress with

(a) The abolition of the hardship clause under the interest free loan scheme.
(b) More encouragement for students to study at Melbourne and for S.D.O. holders to take post-graduate courses at Sydney or London.
(c) That a scholarship of £100 p.a. for the intermediate year be written into the University Calendar.

The Committee was reconstructed with Mr A. H. T. Rose relieving Mr G. K. Neill of the chairmanship and the membership being Messrs M. W. Cholerton, L. N. Medlin, G. K. Neill and with Mr K. W. Mills representing the Executive. Ocular physiology, a specialised medical area, presented obstacles in obtaining a tutor, but Mr J. A. Fairmaid made his services available. Linking with dentistry for much common training was again being explored by Mr G. K. Neill should the Government not be willing to grant bursaries following a further approach to the Minister. The conditions of the scholarship of £100 p.a. were formulated. It was named the Travelling Scholarship in Optometry, tenable for three years at Melbourne, after the student had passed the Optometrical Intermediate Examination. Provisions were outlined re half yearly scholastic reports, application forms and methods of payments. In 1957, the first two awards of the Travelling Scholarship were made to A. B. Watson and M. F. McHarg, and one award of an interest free loan. The discussions during this year showed that even with the utmost goodwill, admission to or combination with the Otago Dental School was not feasible. The Committee recommended again that the Sydney course of two years at the University of Technology should be utilised by N.Z. graduates to gain a B.Sc. (Optometry). A few students availed themselves of this course. Messrs B. Russell and P. de Lacey were the first graduates in 1959.

Bursaries were declined in 1958 by the Government after the Minister had presented a case to the Board of Health. Further argument and protest proved futile.

Once more the National Education Committee was reconstructed with Mr J. A. Fairmaid becoming chairman, and with the resignation of Mr L. N. Medlin, the committee members comprised Messrs R. A. Bridgman, M. W. Cholerton, A. H. T. Rose, K. W. Mills and H. Atkinson. After some years Auckland had taken up representation again; this was to have far-reaching consequences. The following year (1959) saw the addition of Messrs P. R. de Lacey and P. F. Waterhouse to replace M. W. Cholerton giving the committee a more northern emphasis.

Within months an impromptu conversation over a garden fence produced an immediate rapport between Mr H. Atkinson and Dr T. H.

Scott, the recently appointed Professor of Psychology at Auckland University. For twenty years Mr Atkinson had campaigned in the education field and at last he had found an outside collaborator with understanding and initiative. No time was wasted and Dr Scott gave a memorable taped address of his plans to the 1959 Christchurch Conference. The resultant decisions were to continue with the present schemes yet to develop this University opportunity at Auckland with full vigour. But disaster struck. Tragically Dr Scott was killed on Mt Cook, and his successor Dr D. Campbell was soon to leave for Canada. Before the latter's departure, Messrs Rose, Cox, Atkinson and Mills with Dr Campbell presented submissions to the Vice-Chancellor, Mr K. J. Maidment, including the offer of a sum of £5000 towards the establishment expenses of the School of Optometry and also £3000 for clinical equipment. Dr Campbell, in a later positively worded letter to the Vice-Chancellor, suggested that the proposal was of direct benefit to the Psychology Department which was visually orientated and also to the University. The subject of physiological optics was a special area of study in psychology and the inclusion of optometry could do nothing but strengthen the department. Meantime the National Education Committee had consulted Drs Fry and Hofstetter of Ohio and Indiana Universities whose considered opinions were that the proposals were sound and practicable.

Procedures necessary within the science faculty moved quietly and the National Education Committee was engaged in the finer detail. The understanding collaboration of Professor Sagar, Professor H. D. Sampson, the newly appointed head of Psychology, and the individual Opticians Board members (not least Drs Thompson and Talbot) made the planning so much more pleasant and smooth. In 1961 the science faculty made its final favourable recommendation to the Professorial Board and these had been aided by the discussions with Professor J. Lederer of Sydney during his recent visit. The year 1962 closed with the final decisions being awaited from Wellington and with the expectation of the first professional year commencing in 1965. Meantime the National Education Committee had raised its offer of assistance to £10,000. The University Curriculum and Grants Committees accepted in early 1963 the above recommendations and accordingly in June, Auckland University advertised the position of Senior Lectureship in Optometry (salary £1750-£2000) within the Psychology Department. The appointment was to commence in February 1964 and the teaching course in 1965. Mr A. H. T. Rose, who had resumed the chairmanship of the National Education Committee, epitomised the situation: "We are solidly behind the University and we are sure the University is solidly behind our requirements and education."

The Travelling Scholarship and interest free loans were terminated around this time. The Scholarship Fund had a balance of £1075 and the Tutorial Fund showed £1737. The National Education Committee was now obliged to implement its promises of financial assistance of £10,000. This figure had sneaked up £2000 during the negotiations. The Committee and the President (Mr W. M. P. Barry) enlisted the support of Messrs G. E. Cox and R. A. Bridgman to perform a nationwide canvass of all members. In the space of less than a year, the appeal reached £12,325, thanks to members' generosity, the splendid support of the supply houses and £1500 from the Golden Kiwi. The payment of £5000 to be the general expenses of the University was quickly arranged and the additional expenditure of £5000 for equipment was steadily implemented in a liaison arrangement between the University Department, Mr G. E. Cox and the wholesale houses.

Dr Theodore Grosvenor, Associate Professor at the University of Houston, Texas, was appointed to fill the position of Senior Lecturer and arrived in early 1964. He, in his quiet, genial way, immediately immersed himself in the task of preparing for the 1965 intake and also in the uncharted problems of fitting into a strange land and making rapport with the Association and all its members. The National Education Committee, unwearied by its labours and buoyed by its success, was reformed with Mr A. H. T. Rose (chairman as before) and Messrs K. W. Mills, H. Atkinson and P. F. Waterhouse as members. They had many useful discussions with Dr Grosvenor and Professor Sampson.

The Association in 1965 honoured Mr G. K. Neill with Life membership. His membership dated from the inception of the Institute and his advocacy and persistence in all educational affairs was outstanding as was his long association with the National Education Committee, including some years as its chairman.

Scholarships were also decided upon, viz., that there be three scholarships to the University of Auckland of £200, £150 and £100 value to be awarded on academic merit in the third year. Mr H. C. Russell advised that the amalgamation of the Education Fund (£3363), the Education Tutorial Fund (£1698) and the Scholarship Fund (£1675) plus a yearly appropriation of £300 would provide sufficient funds.

Thus in 1965, the last of the students eligible under the State Examination system finalised their qualifications. The long succession of sacrificing examiners and directors since 1930 came to an end. The Association and the whole profession owed them a tremendous debt of gratitude. They had ensured the continuing life-blood of optometry. Examining is always an unenviable task but they had willingly given of their special professional abilities, they had spent their working time and they had suffered financial loss. The list has proved impossible to individualise but they all, both optometrical and medical, are numbered as among the great contributors to the profession.

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY

The 1965 University year started with seven students and the programme was as follows:-

First Year: Physics 1A or 1B, Chemistry I, Zoology I
Second Year: Physiology I (B.Sc.), Optometry II
Third Year: Psychology II (B.Sc.), Optometry III
Fourth Year: Additional year of clinical work.

From this programme a student could cross-credit five units towards a B.Sc. degree. Only two refracting cubicles were equipped but in 1966 all four were functioning and a Haag-Streit slit-lamp, an additional gift of the Association, was on order. Mr P. R. de Lacey, a clinical associate in the 1965 year, completed his M.A. degreee in Education, with his thesis on "The Development of Optometrical Education in New Zealand" and his departure to Armidale University lost the local scene an energetic originator. Development of an education committee comprising the optometry schools of Australia and New Zealand was inaugurated and where possible the Committee meetings would be held in association with A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congresses. Also the N.Z. Foundation for the Blind very generously proposed an Ophthalmic Scholarship of £750 p.a. for post-graduate work—preferably in the area of sub-normal vision.

In 1968 Mr P. D. Skeates was appointed as a second full-time optometric lecturer. Mr P. F. Waterhouse commenced lectures and sessions on aniseikonia and other specialised topics. Mr A. G. Bott and Mr G. R. Kearney continued their special sessions and Mr P. Riddick continued his programme on ocular anatomy and physiology. A gift of a retinal camera and a Keeler L.V.A. set came along, partly from Association funds and partly from a worthy donation from the N.Z. Opticians Industrial Union of Employers. Consistent with true University function, research projects were pursued by staff members as well as minor projects by fourth year students. A "Students Guide" was prepared and it proved invaluable to practising members when they required detailed information for the enquiries that occurred especially from patients or their parents. The fourth year students had been examined by assessors in conjunction with the Opticians Board, the examination procedure being roughly along the lines of the old Section D examination. Mr P. D. Skeates and Mr J. A. Fairmaid were the assessors.

The financial appeal after three years had completely fulfilled its commitments and there was a credit balance of $4821. It was a recommendation that this money be trusted with a view to its usage if an expanded course occurred or if, as looked possible, new or enlarged premises were available. An official professional gesture would be of much value to the University in such circumstances. Historical note must be made of the official awarding in the early part of the year 1967, of the first diplomas from the University. The five students were Messrs J. F. Anderson, M. J. Frith, I. K. Laird, D. O. Neill and P. R. Rose. The top three (Neill, Laird, Frith) received the Association Scholarships.

As predicted by Associate Professor Grosvenor (who had received this appointment in February 1967) the early years of a new course were usually years of scarcity. Years of adequate or plentiful intake numbers commenced in 1968, partly due initially to the public relationship exercised by local optometrists. At the same time, Mr H. Atkinson joined the clinical staff, and Messrs I. K. Laird and D. O. Neill occupied positions as demonstrators. Dr G. Talbot continued his lectures on ocular pathology and other ophthalmologists rostered some clinical sessions. The 1968 A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress in Christchurch afforded the normal opportunity for the Australasian Colleges to meet and this body became the Australia and New Zealand Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, abbreviated hereafter to A.N.Z.A.S.C.O.

The fourth year, the students "hardship" year, was eased by the Association providing $150 grants and interest free loans, thus permitting these students to continue on a full-time basis. No education bursaries or boarding allowances were available as this fourth year was not part of the diploma programme. Once more the scholarship pattern was altered in 1969 providing now two scholarships of $1000 each, the first to begin in 1970. They were disbursed as $100 first year, $200 second year, $300 third year and $400 fourth year. Consequently the older system would be phased out in due time. The Allergan Company instituted an annual award of $200 for clinical investigation during the fourth year.

The end of 1969 was overshadowed by the departure of Professor Grosvenor to the University of Waterloo in Canada, and the Association lost a keen, enthusiastic collaborator in affairs optometrical at University level. He had proved to be a truly worthy pioneer. Naturally some months elapsed before the appointment of Mr L. A. F. Stockley as Associate Professor in August 1970. He had been a lecturer at Bradford University since 1958 as well as having been in private practice, and had recently spent a lecture/research year at Indiana University. The new year also saw the installation of the fourth year of study as an accepted University year and the problems of student bursaries thus ceased. With the intake reaching its capacity of twelve each year, the facilities in the two old wooden residences had become trying indeed; worse still,it led to insufficiencies and a less than optimum atmosphere. Therefore the shift of quarters to the new Human Science Building became of paramount importance. But dogged by stoppages and hitches and with an estimated cost of 7½ million dollars it proved to be several years away from completion. Meantime the optometry programme had perforce to manage as best as possible.

A new award from Messrs Smith & Nephew for $200 to be presented annually was gratefully accepted and the Association scholarships were modified in their detail. The University Awards Handbook has set out the present conditions. A major advance was gained when the University Senate granted permission for the direct progress of a Diploma in Optometry holder to a Masters programme in Psychology with the emphasis on vision.

The optometry programme had been operating for seven years when the ever questing National Education Committee held exploratory discussions with the Association Council culminating in an address by Professor H. D. Sampson at the 1971 Conference. He propounded the thesis that the University course was well established. It was therefore time to consider a long range plan to encourage inter-disciplinary research preferably at a post-graduate level. The idea was to provide a post-graduate teaching fellowship with some junior fellows employed at the demonstrators level of remuneration and with some senior fellows involved in clinical research interchanging between the University and large practices. Such a programme must embrace all trained personnel in the field of vision, possibly with a co-ordinating director. Professor Sampson stressed the need for decision making before the next quinquenium in 1974 so as to merit University support especially in the equipment field. Some of the favourable aspects were: the promotion of genuine research indicative of professional integrity; better students had an outlet for their capabilities; there were links with biology, psychology etc.; students could use it as their vehicle to read for their M.Phil.; it could be the receiving agent for grants from the Transport Department, Golden Kiwi etc., and various other general benefits. Mr K. W. Atkinson emphasised that the profession needed development in the higher tertiary field and now was the opportune time.

Much consideration was given to various aspects and details which resulted in the Conference resolving that it confirmed the project, and that a sum of $10,000 be gifted to the University to help establish the Vision Research Centre. Planning would proceed as quickly as possible but a warning was issued that productive programmes and research flowering were some years ahead. Nevertheless the seed had sprouted to the seedling stage and quickly the Association donated $4600 to the University as an interim measure. In 1972 Mr A. H. T. Rose relinquish the chairmanship of the Education Committee and his successor was Mr J. J. Connor with associates in Messrs H. Atkinson, P. F. Waterhouse and J. D. Adam. Mr Adam presently assumed the chairmanship.

Meantime, with capacity intakes each year, a third teaching post was established to which Dr I. K. Laird, Auckland's first Ph.D. graduate in optometry was appointed. His doctorate thesis was on "Chromatic Stereoscopy", copies of which are housed in the University library. Eleven part-time assistants were utilised to assist with the overload of students in 1974. There were 41 in the three divisions. The selection of Division II students was now restricted to twelve, determined on academic merit and whilst the large application list each year had now become an embarrassing feature it indicated the firm footing optometry had gained in the professional disciplines.

The financial success of the Vision Research Fund, now named the

T. G. Young Memorial Appeal Fund, quickly materialised. The energetic canvassing of all members by Messrs E. H. Grocott and R. A. Bridgman, which demonstrated the unity of the professional outlook, resulted in a grand total of $13,500 inclusive of the original grant to the University. Mr H. Atkinson had now resigned from the National Education Committee. His never ending activities in education and ethics extended from his graduation day in 1934—a forty year record of unswerving endeavour and great achievement.

Once more, the subject of awards and scholarships recurred. Some time previously, the Allergan Award had been increased to $300 p.a. with a major award of $200 and a minor of $100 after submissions from the Students Association and Professor Stockley in 1976. The Association reviewed its Scholarship grants as follows:-

(a) A four year scholarship of $700, on a yearly grant basis of $100, $100, $200, and $300.
(b) A four year scholarship of $400, divided into yearly payments of $100.
(c) One scholarship of $300, awarded after the intermediate year, divided into annual payments of $100.
(d) A grant of $50 to each of twelve students for instrument purchase.
(e) Three prizes of $100 for each year of the course, with a first prize of $75 and second of $25.

In all, a total disbursement of $2300 per year.

Professor Stockley had attended the A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congresses in Canberra and Hobart; he was chairman of the Optometry section at both Congresses and was accompanied by Mr J. D. Adam at the Canberra meeting. The latter proved his secretarial expertise in the august precincts of the Australian National University.

So time moved on to 1977 when the long awaited migration to the Human Science Building occurred, where only the Geography wing had been completed the lower area of which was occupied by the optometry clinic and physiological optics laboratory. Furniture and fittings arrived in spasms, equipment was some problem and decisions of the Grants Committee and its associates had not yet materialised. The school was very equipment intensive compared with other disciplines and consequently justifications for higher monetary grants needed to be so much more thorough and explicit. Simultaneous with this movement to new quarters, came the decision of Mr P. Skeates to enter more actively into private practice. In the interregnum, he obligingly assisted on a part-time teaching basis. He had contributed much to the school and willingly shouldered many extra tasks outside the normal call of duty.

The vacancy was filled in 1978 by the appointment of Dr L. F. Garner who had graduated in Melbourne and obtained his doctorate at the City University, London, in 1970. Since then he had taught in

Melbourne and Brisbane as well as undertaking a lecture semester at Waterloo, Ontario. His speciality has been in the contact lens field.

The entrants in 1978 limited to twelve as in previous years, included four females. There had been over the recent years a goodly proportion of young ladies. They proved to be good students, one had gained her M.Sc., another is proceeding towards hers, they had been the cream of one graduation year in particular, and most importantly they contributed an atmosphere and dimension befitting the caring ideals of the profession.

The Vision Research Centre, bedevilled for some years with staff shortages, lack of accommodation, and other gremlins, moved into action. The University has approved a suitable grant to Dr M. C. Corballis, Professor in Psychology, for research in the field of "Visual Information Processing" and also to Dr L. F. Garner on "Assessment of Soft Contact Lens Performance". The Association made a grant of $5000 from the Vision Research Fund towards the purchase of a slit-lamp and camera. The ideal the Vision Centre had had for some years was being translated into action and on this work the health and happiness of mankind can rely.

Some overseas students had been included periodically in the list of students but regrettably, to date, a Maori has not came forward. The school and the profession would surely welcome and be the richer for such a student or students.

At the commencement of the 1979 academic year the staff of the optometry section was recorded as follows:-

Associate Professor: L. A. F. Stockley F.B.O.A., F.S.M.C.
Senior Lecturers: L. F. Garner B.App.Sc., (Melb.), Ph.D. (City), L.O.Sc., V.C.O. (Melb.), F.A.A.O.
I. K. Laird M.Sc., Ph.D., (Auck.), Dip. Opt.
Clinical Associates: K. W. Atkinson F.B.O.A., D.C.L.P.
B. G. Henderson B.Sc., Dip. Opt.
G. R. Kearney B.Sc., S.D.O.N.Z.
A. J. Nelson B.Sc., Dip. Opt.
N. G. Ritchie S.D.O.N.Z.

Past Clinical Associates have included Messrs H. Atkinson, J. Atkinson, V. Nicholls, D. Adam, R. Gorton, A. Bott, P. de Lacey, M. Frith, R. Kinnear, P. Barry, L. Grocott, the late P. Waterhouse and Dr G. Talbot.

Opticians Board Assessors: Messrs J. A. Fairmaid, P. D. Skeates, J. B. Sturtevant, R. N. Pennington, J. J. Connor, J. D. Adam and F. O. Davis, Doctors L. Bell, C. Ring, R. Holmes, C. Fenton.

THE OVERSEAS FRIENDS

Mostly, this nation is of British origin and so it was inevitable that

New Zealand, in its culture and education, should follow the life-style of those islands set off-shore from Europe. Colonisation, distance, development and the isolation in the Pacific Ocean, plus a native population, have worked some changes in outlook and approach but a strong similarity has persisted in all activities from Government to family life. The early years saw little sophistication in culture or the higher skills and endeavours of the populace. Consequently it was only gradually that the rudiments of spectacle making or selling made an appearance. Factors such as a young virile population, little time or opportunity to pursue arts and literature, a short expectation of life and pecuniary problems all contributed to a low level of demand for visual aid. The earliest record is probably that of Thomas Peacock in 1862 as an instrument maker and spectacle retailer in Shortland Street in the growing city of Auckland. Gradually, qualified and unqualified men arrived in New Zealand around the turn of the century, sometimes as itinerants and sometimes to stay. There was also some record of New Zealanders travelling to Britain to study, and often enough returning with examination success from one or other, or occasionally from both, of the established examining bodies of the time viz., The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers and the British Optical Association.

The former body was established as a Company of the City of London by Royal Charter granted by King Charles I in 1629. There were about 69 other craft guilds when Robert Allt, citizen and brewer with 15 other spectacle makers, 12 of whom belonged to the Brewers Company, favourably petitioned the King in Council for the above Corporation in 1628. It did not achieve the full status of a Livery Company until much later. This Company with its rights and ordinances controlled the spectacle making craft and regulated the workmanship, quality and trading of the merchandise. The Company comprised a Master, with two assistants termed the Upper Warden and the Renten Warden and a Board of Examiners. All was and still is housed in the Apothecaries Hall which quaintly resides in Black Friars Lane as part of the previous Black Friars Monastery. From this and similar craft companies the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of this ancient city are annually elected. The Company pursued a somewhat disinterested course in the craft during last century, confining itself largely to domestic affairs and the company's charities. However, the founding of the British Optical Association caused the Company to hold its first examinations in November 1898 and the examinations for sight testing were added in June 1904. The encouragement of evening classes in optics at the Northampton Polytechnic, now the City University, was assisted for two years by the payment of the salary of the lecturer in visual optics, Mr Lionel Laurance. His text books were authoritative here in New Zealand until after the last war.

No accurate records are obtainable of the various New Zealanders who studied under Mr Lionel Laurance but they were many. "Visual

Optics" was first published in 1914 and its companion volume was "General and Practical Optics". The Worshipful Company confers the Freedom of the City of London, now shorn of its many previous rights, (one of which was to graze one sheep in Hyde Park) on every student who takes the Company's examination. Today the Company's Fellows number nearly four thousand. In 1979 extensive celebrations were held to commemorate its founding 350 years previously and some New Zealand Freemen were present. It is a venerable institution, it is august, it may have been rather steeped in "age and mysterie" but it has always welcomed our venturesome students seeking improvement and knowledge. Especially did this pertain in the period from 1930 until other more convenient avenues of education opened around the 1950 period.

The other British institution of special note was the British Optical Association. It was founded on 27/28 February 1895 in Holborn, London, with Mr Robert Sutcliffe as secretary, later to be followed by his son, Mr J. H. Sutcliffe. The Association would only accept membership by examination and the first examinations were held in 1896. Membership rose steadily from an initial 15 who had attended the inaugural meeting, to 1000 in 1922 and to about 4500 today, spread worldwide. In 1923 the examination system was entirely reorganised. The existing Dioptric (Associate) certificate and the Fellowship (Final) certificate were discontinued. The former examination was extended to include the recognition of abnormal ocular conditions and it became the Fellowship examination. The previous Fellowship was considerably upgraded and it became the Honours examination. By 1930, matriculation or its equivalent became a pre-requisite, and as well, strict standards of training at a recognised college were required with specific criteria in mechanical and technical optics and also in clinical experience. These colleges were inspected and grants and scholarships became available to them. By 1949 the syllabus had been extended to four years of full-time study including one clinical year. Other specialist examinations, e.g. the orthoptics examination, and that in prescribing and fitting contact lenses were introduced and have done much to highlight fields of specialisation. Of special note is the Association's library of over 8000 volumes which received a great fillip in its earlier stages by a grant from the Carnegie Trust. Today it is used as a reference even by the British Museum. Allied with the library, is the museum, now of inestimable value, and surely the finest in the world. It was a pre-eminent interest of Mr J. H. Sutcliffe and it gained many exhibits from his global travels.

From its inception the doors of the British Optical Association were open to all Dominion students; in fact to all Empire students. In 1930, on the founding of the present Institute of Opticians, New Zealand had 29 members of the B.O.A. The earliest one recorded in the 1930 list was Mr S. Barry, Certificate 292, D.B.O.A. April 1901. There may possibly have been one or two earlier but they were not members in 1930, when the Institute was founded. Following Mr Barry's registration, the N.Z. students successful in gaining the Diploma Examination prior to World War I included Messrs H. Neill (1904), Watson (1905), Chance (1909), Lonsdale (1911), Taaffe (1911), Sargent (1912), Foden (1913).

Several New Zealanders qualified in London after the First World War prior to returning to New Zealand. When the Institute was founded in 1930 the following held one or other of the B.O.A. qualifications: Messrs Barry, Coltman, Lowes, McIlwraith, T. D. Peacock, Read, Taaffe, E. H. Grocott, Farmer, Collett, Lonsdale, W. J. Watson, W. S. Holland, Chance, P. G. Dick, Ingram, de Lacey, G. K. Neill, H. Neill, Hayes-Towns, Quin, Gilmore, Yeoman, Foden, T. O. Davies, Sargent, Young, G. C. Abbott and J. F. Curtis.

Around 1935, there occurred a steady trickle of post-graduate students to Britain in search of more knowledge following the recent fine attainments of Messrs H. C. Collett and G. E. Cox and the arrival here from London of Mr F. Hayes-Towns. Names like Atkinson, Cholerton, J. Gilberd, Robb, Inglis, Bennett, Dickson, Barry, Newall and Cocks became known at 65 Brook Street, especially to the new secretary Mr G. H. Giles and his assistant Miss M. Mitchell. They became almost an elite coterie. As related elsewhere, Mr H. Atkinson, the vanguard of this new invasion of London, immediately found, as did all the others a little later, that the New Zealand State Examination was the equivalent of the Association's Fellowship. His diplomacy aided by the responsive mind of Mr Giles persuaded the B.O.A. Council that the New Zealand graduates should be permitted direct access to the Honours examination. Their scholastic performance and dedication was such that they attained the Honours examination without difficulty. One candidate did research for a thesis as a part credit, somewhat to the discomfiture of the examining committee. All were greatly aided by the excellence of the clinical experience gained at the Refraction Hospital—it was of a standard and variety that no other New Zealand graduates have received anywhere. This situation of post-graduate training, obtained by each student on the barest of monetary means, gave New Zealand optometry a major lift in standard and ideals. However, it came to an abrupt halt with the onset of World War II but resumed again, perhaps with less impact, post-war. The post-war inhibiting factors for students in Britain were monetary, rehabilitation, adaptation to peace-time conditions and the uncertainties of employment in practices.

Locally, education thinking had become more introversive and desirous of a higher educational standard and as an alternative to the British scene the proximity and willingness of Melbourne became apparent. Nevertheless, there was always a strong sentiment towards London and the occasional student ventured there for conventional or higher training. Liaison was never lost with that great friend of all students, Mr George Giles, and there were many happy hearts when he visited New Zealand in 1955 during a world tour. Primarily he attended the Hanmer Springs Conference where he gave addresses on a variety of topics and endeared himself to the large attendance of members and wives. The Institute provided every facility including dinners with ophthalmological and legal friends as guests, mayoral receptions, a visit to the Prime Minister and two visits to the Minister of Health, newspaper interviews, radio dialogues etc. In addition, he was shown every aspect of New Zealand optometry, wined and dined lavishly, met Sir Edmund Hilary and Guide Rangi, and even had a "short back and sides" to his horror. New Zealand optometry as a result awakened more fully to its overseas relationships and steadily assumed more contacts. Australia was on the doorstep. Britain was always a welcoming friend despite the tragic loss of its luminary, Giles, a few years later, and the possibilities of contacts and benefits from the emerging United States became apparent in many happy encounters.

Also in Britain was the long established Northampton Polytechnic in which initially Mr Lionel Laurance did such good work, carried on somewhat later by Mr Emsley and the Fincham brothers. More recently it has graduated to higher status as the City University with the Ophthalmic Optics Department under Professor R. J. Fletcher. The London Refraction Hospital at 54 Newington Causeway, forever indebted to the vision of Mr Owen Aves, was the clinical school for many of the Institute's members. There could be obtained advanced lecture programmes, a tremendous variety of local and referred clinical material and a coffee room battleground for staff and students. The names of Forrest, Mitchell, Woodruff, Rosen, Giles, Gibson, Freeman, Green, Swann, Sasieni, Lewis, Rossini and Mrs Crawley are forever fresh in many memories.

As time moved on, attention was drawn to the developing School of Optometry in Melbourne. The impediments of distance and expense were so much less. The school had commenced as the Australian College of Optometry in 1940 and students had entered the course leading to the diploma of Licentiate of Optometric Science in 1941. A new location was arranged in Carlton in 1956 with Professor A. Amies as the continuing president and in 1959, Mr B. L. Cole was appointed the first full-time lecturer. The following year witnessed full affiliation with the University of Melbourne and full degree status in the Faculty of Applied Science. The first N.Z. graduate in this course was Mr G. F. Bridgman. Change occurred ten years later in that optometry was transferred to the Faculty of Science and that year (1970) the degree became B.Sc. (Optom.). The next development after some years of planning was the establishment of the National Vision Research Institute which was officially opened in 1975 and the subsequent appointment of a research director. A chair of optometry was founded in 1978 with Dr B. L. Cole being appointed the first professor.

Throughout the years of collaboration in education, much appreciation must be expressed for the friendship and co-operation of Mr J. Nathan. He was well and favourably known to Executive members of the Association as well as to the following students who graduated in Melbourne: Messrs R. J. Sargent (1950), J. A. Fairmaid (1953), A. R. Bell (1954), J. S. McKinnon, J. J.Connor (1955), M. F. McHarg (1959), A. B. Watson (1959), all Licentiates of Optometric Science, and G. F. Bridgman (1961), L. B. Grocott (special student 1961), P. D. Skeates (1962), S. A. Elwood (1962) who obtained degrees of Bachelor of Applied Science. In addition Mr P. F. Waterhouse attended as a special student.

Initially in New South Wales, optometry was taught as a part-time five year course at the Sydney Technical College. With the founding of the University of New South Wales, a "conversion" course enabled diplomates to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Science. It was the first optometric degree (1952) available at a university in the British Commonweath. A four year full-time degree course was commenced in 1960.

Optometry was a department in the University's School of Physics; later it was part of the School of Applied Physics and Optometry until in 1977 it was constituted separately as the School of Optometry. The staffing and equipment was always plentiful; the former aspect at present consists of a professor, an associate professor, two senior lecturers, three lecturers, a professional officer and an instructor plus adequate laboratory and clerical staff and a visiting clinical staff of 24. The courses now range from a Bachelor of Optometry, Master of Optometry, Master of Science to a Doctor of Philosophy.

The head of the school has always been Professor J. Lederer who, after the initial approach of the National Education Committee in 1955, became well-known in New Zealand circles. The committee had enquired at this time if any facilities would exist for study by New Zealand graduates. It became apparent that two years in Sydney would qualify such students to sit the B. Optom. degree. In 1957 Mr B. J. Russell and Mr P. de Lacey commenced this two year course. They discovered it required a reasonably high standard in mathematics and the cost was about £500 per year.

New Zealand has had several visits from the New South Wales staff, especially Professor Lederer. His conducting of seminars in August 1961 furnished an excellent opportunity to use his knowledge and good offices for extensive discussions with the science faculty in Auckland. This was during a critical phase in the negotiations with the faculty.

Thus, with the establishment of the Auckland optometry course some relaxation occurred in the relationships with the overseas educating and examining institutions. Like the attainment of Dominion status in 1907, New Zealand had grown to a maturity in its optometric affairs, perhaps still a junior, but nevertheless it had joined the comity of larger nations. The appreciation of the New Zealand profession and so many of its members must never cease, for the unfailing help in the long years from 1930 to 1965, to all these overseas institutions. They were true and invaluable friends.

LECTURES, SEMINARS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Certainly nearly all the objects of the Institute, and later of the Association, have been embraced in this heading. Needs changed; examinations changed; times changed and so somewhat in pace or out of pace, did the profession endeavour to modify and update its post-graduate activities. In the first ten years especially, the paramount need was to uplift the basic standards of most members. Then came almost a ten year disruption period caused by war and post-war factors. From the 1950 period onward the need, indeed sometimes the clamour, was for real post-graduate levels which produced the seminar concept (a new word then in the local vocabulary). Opinion varied whether these gatherings should be practice-based or research-based in their orientation and probably both aspects had merit and sway. The survey, which follows, covers a long period. There is no possibility that it can cover all aspects or all detail. Omissions are occasioned by lack of information, by the factor of repetition or perhaps by space. Much, especially American material, has been recorded in recent years on tape and can be obtained from the library at the Psychology Department, Auckland University. Some early lectures, mostly pre-war, are available from the archives.

It would be appropriate to record the educational programme of the foundation Conference of the Institute in February 1930. There were three lectures by:-

(a) Dr J. Malcolm, Professor of Physiology at Otago Medical School on "The Physiology of Nerves and Muscles".
(b) A lecture on "Muscle and Fusional Training" by local Dunedin members followed by an evening lecture/demonstration by Mr F. G. Hayes-Towns.
(c) Dr A. J. Hall, a leading ophthalmologist lectured on "Cataract".

There were 27 members present from Auckland southwards.

In these early years several Conference sessions were usually devoted to lectures or demonstrations, and Amblyopia, the Relation of Dental and Ocular Disorders, Physiological Defects of Vision, Ophthalmoscopy, Lenticular Astigmatism, Charts, Presbyopia etc. were all covered. Dr H. Coverdale, later to be senior ophthalmologist with 2 N.Z.E.F., gave a comprehensive survey of "Borderline Cases" in 1933. This was followed by Mr H. C. Collett with a stimulating address on "Cataract—its Arrest and Cure". The essential feature was the recognition of metabolic disarray or biochemical malfunction in the lenticular structure and the incidence of goitre from iodine deficiency seemed in area statistics to have a relationship to cataract frequency.

Dunedin Medical School generously allowed Dr W. P. Gowland in the following year (1934) to devote two whole days to programmes progressing from the unicellular amoeba to the highly specialised multicellular animals such as man. From there, he developed the subject of neurology culminating in the binocular apparatus and its anomalies.

The original research in London by Mr G. E. Cox, associated with the Fincham brothers, into the subject of accommodation and which resulted in the capsular theory was a major programme item for the following Conference in 1935. Alongside this treatise, Dr W. J. Hope-Robertson gave an exhaustive exposition on "Headaches" and their significance in optometry. All of this would still be valid today. Again in the following year, the Conference organisers pursued their educative role with "Toxic Amblyopia" (Dr W. G. Scannell), "Modern Refraction" (H. C. Collett) and "Orbital Contents and Sinuses" (F. G. Hayes-Towns).

The Auckland University in 1937 (a forerunner of things and location yet to unfold) saw a series of short papers given on "The Dominant Eye", "Heredity and Refractive Errors", "Refractionometers", "Keratometry", "Static Retinoscopy", "Ocular Prothesis", "Education", "Eyesight and Traffic", etc.

Once again, four years later, members were privileged to have a further series of lectures by Dr Gowland at the Otago Medical School. The subject was a further development of his previous treatment of neurology, reflexes, dominance, headaches and associated aspects. A physics lecturer, Miss A. R. Blaikie, covered with vivid demonstrations much of the area of "Light" in another lecture. Anisometropia, always a problem, was surveyed by Mr P. N. Dick as was the fascinating subject of "Quackery or Truth" by Mr A. R. Watson. Notable was his explanation of the "Bates Method" which had some popular following at this time.

The Conference education programme moved in 1939 to the Empire Hotel, Wellington, where a full two day programme was mounted by Mr G. E. Cox and another. An attendance of 40 were provided with a full resume of both theoretical and practical orthoptics. The anatomical, physiological, neurological and pathological divisions were all surveyed; the rationale and methods of the British, American and French schools of approach complete with photographs and illustrations were covered. Demonstrations were done on the most complete array of orthoptic instruments ever shown in New Zealand; to name some, the Kratometer, Stereo-Orthoptor, Synoptoscope and Synoptophore, variable prism stereoscope, cheiroscope and all the French apparatus. This programme aided by lectures on Astig. Charts and Migraine by Messrs E. R. Boyd and R. C. Bailey marked the most ambitious post-graduate programme of this period.

1940 was New Zealand's Centennial Year and the sessions were devoted to "1840-1890" (Mr H. M. Bennett), "1890-1915" (Mr H. S. Gilberd), "1915-1940" (Mr J. D. Gilmore), "The Future" (Mr A. H. T. Rose), "Optometry as I See It" (Mr H. Atkinson), "The Graf Wiser Technique" (Mr E. D. Savidge), "How to Live" (Mr M. A. Kitchen). Precis of these talks are available.

The Institute's endeavours in the education field then ended for seven years; much had been accomplished.

A new era dawned in 1947. The first post-war session was devoted to a British 16 mm film on contact lenses, compered by Mr W. M. P. Barry, and an explanation and demonstration of the known techniques by Dr G. Talbot and Mr G. Hirst. Even then buffer solutions, corneal clouding and fluorescein were common words. The awareness of the anterior ocular segment was awakening. The subject was further developed the following year by Mr R. S. Dick of the Dunedin Ophthalmology Department who had recently returned from Britain whence he had been seconded from 14 Opticians Unit C.M.F. on a rehabilitation bursary.

Subsequent Conferences sustained informative sessions on such topics as strabismus, micro-filming, lighting and new drugs.

Christchurch 1951, flowered in the spring-time with original thought-provoking new material by Mr L. E. Newall on "Simple Orthoptics", by Mr W. B. Bland discussing the research results on "Migraine", by Mr R. R. Cocks on "Primary Chronic Glaucoma" and Mr M. W. Cholerton on "Aniseikonia and Space Perception", plus several lecturettes. This was a high class research and practical exposition. The 1952 and 1953 Conferences each had several topics devoted to everyday optometric practice, notably the "Turville Infinity Balance" featured by L. N. Medlin. The subject of "Sub-normal Vision Aids" was introduced in 1954 by Mr L. H. Harvey who assisted in the development of the Lederer lens. His wide experience associated with Mr J. Lederer, was shown freely in his two lectures and his demonstration session, and his contact with the Blind Institute in Auckland aroused optometry to a new responsibility.

As stated previously, the visit in 1955 of Mr G. H. Giles, optician, barrister, author, lecturer and administrator, provided the attendance of 57 at Hanmer Springs with lectures of historical, technical and political significance. Space permits only their listing:-

(1) Modern refraction and current techniques.
(2) Optometric education in the U.K. and in the U.S.A.
(3) The National Health Service in the U.K.
(4) Colour Vision
(5) Orthoptics
(6) Symptoms and History

This comprehensive coverage including at times his own research and his own authorship, did much to turn the optometric eyes of New

Zealand towards the big wide world, and the influence was far-reaching. For instance, the following year Mr J. Nathan of Melbourne ably continued in Mr Giles's footsteps with exhaustive lectures on Myopia, Glaucoma, Amblyopia and Tinted Lenses.

The fever for more Institute-sponsored post-graduate work was widespread. It resulted in the designation of Hamilton, Palmerston North and Timaru as seminar centres. "Seminar fever" had invaded the membership and New Zealanders were to be the chief contributors. So it was that Messrs P. F. Waterhouse, J. McKinnon, R. A. Dickson and W. M. P. Barry were the first lecturers reaching an audience of over 100 members i.e. 60% of all members. Due to difficulties with dates etc., the only seminar possible the next year was a highly successful one in Hamilton conducted by Mr P. R. de Lacey. The Conference however had two medical lectures on "Hypertension" and "Recent Advances" by Drs Smith and Suckling. They are recorded on tape.

Personal acquaintance was made in 1960 with Mr B. L. Cole, lecturer at the Melbourne College of Optometry, who conducted three May seminars. Once more over 50% of members attended. Again in 1961, the Association had the services of an overseas educator in the person of Professor J. Lederer during August. Both Australian visitors were helpful in many other ways.

No seminars were held in 1962 but Dr W. R. Jackson of Kansas City addressed the Te Anau Conference on "Speed Reading" and "Practice Management". Tapes were made. Some reversion then followed to the usage of New Zealand lecturers dealing with everyday practice problems. The personnel were Messrs P. F. Waterhouse, L. B. Grocott and F. O. Davis who used the titles of "My Eyes Ache", "Clinical Problems" and "This Person and That". In 1964 Dr T. P. Grosvenor had arrived and his initial addresses were confined to the Conference in October, and followed by full seminars in the following July/August period. They were a great success with a total attendance of 101 members.

A direction from Council produced a "Glaucoma" year in 1966. All seminar centres were able to utilise local specialists and the workshop sessions were directed by Dr T. P. Grosvenor and others. More awareness of glaucomatous intricacies was aroused, closer relationship with ophthalmologists established and the place of tonometry was fully discussed. The experience and knowledge of Mr P. D. Skeates was used the following year in the field of sub-normal vision in the three centres. Mr P. F. Waterhouse assisted. A.N.Z.A.A.S. in Christchurch (January 1968) then became the focus of attention for the immediate future and so apart from three sessions at the Congress, no activity was evidenced. The George E. Cox Memorial Lecture was given by Dr M. J. Hirsch to an audience of 200 at Auckland University whilst the next year witnessed the hurried arrangements to have Dr M. C. Flom of Berkeley, California, address four seminars largely on binocular vision. He was en route to the Pan Pacific Congress in Sydney. Dr Hofstetter of Indiana visited New Zealand in the 1970-71 holiday period. Branches were advised of his itinerary and hospitality and informal meetings were arranged where possible. The Auckland University staff continued to provide members with valuable academic and clinical material in 1971. Both Professor L. A. F. Stockley and Mr P. D. Skeates had travelled long distances in periods of heavy work loads. At this stage, Oamaru had been substituted for Timaru as a seminar centre.

A gap-in seminar programming then ensued. However, in 1974, Dr A. Rosenbloom of Illinois addressed seminars in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch on "The Care of the Ageing Patient". These were fluent presentations presenting insights into the technique of subnormal vision care, prescribing for aphakia and the management of varied geriatric problems.

Over the years the organising of seminars etc., had largely fallen on Mr D. C. Moss's shoulders. It was a difficult task but it was capably carried out. With the increasing complexity of functions, it was decided that the National Education Committee should relieve Mr Moss of this duty—he was now also vice-president. About this time, some feeling became apparent that advanced techniques and new techniques were not being evaluated sufficiently by the Council and some members thought that the Contact Lens Society was rapidly becoming the only post-graduate educative body available. The question was being asked again whether some compulsory periodic programme of post-graduate education should be instituted. It was operating in certain areas overseas yet it had some difficult aspects perhaps notably those of regimentation and compulsion. Many say you can lead a horse to water. . .

The tranquility of Paihia was disturbed twelve months later when the Atkinson force again took the offensive on seminars or continuing education. An informal movement in Auckland, Hamilton and Dunedin was commencing and might need some formalising. The National Education Committee considered the concept a good one in the long term but foresaw difficulties with various categories of members. It required more study and perhaps evolvement. The buildup of frustration was relieved to a large extent in 1977 when the three seminar centres were treated to a worthy series of lectures by Dr A. Johnstone of Melbourne and supported in each centre by a medical session. The attendance of 128 members continued to demonstrate, as in years past, that 60% of members attended. After allowing for age factors, other commitments or geographical difficulties (e.g. Nelson, Blenheim, Gisborne, etc.) the attendance could be nearly 80% of the possible. Not much better could be expected.

The death of Mr P. F. Waterhouse around this time deserves a memorial mention as it was in the field of education that his undoubted talents shone forth and it was here that he expended so much effort for the benefit of both members and students.

A.N.Z.A.A.S. was to be hosted in Auckland in January 1979 and so it was decided that no seminars would be held in 1978 but that the Conference in Christchurch would be of an educational nature. It indeed proved to be so with 16 papers presented on a wide variety of topics. These have been ably presented in booklet form by the Transactions Editor, Mr J. deW. Anstice, and they were a notable contribution to New Zealand optometric literature. It was planned that the seminar programme would resume in 1979. The guest speaker in Hamilton, Palmerston North and now again in Timaru was Mr J. Alexander of the University of New South Wales. Later Timaru was deleted and Dunedin was substituted so that members of the Otago Ophthalmology Department could readily attend.

Finally, in the words of George Peabody, education is a debt due from the present to future generations. Truly, in whatever year of the Association's history a choice was made, there is ample evidence of the awareness of future responsibilities in education and like a father nurturing his son and grandson, so have members throughout the years nourished the next generation or generations. All has not been done; there have been unhappy occasions of omission or commission but optometry has established its raison d'etre in being an area of knowledge and of caring for people.

APPENDIX I

PASS LIST OF STUDENTS 1923-1978

DIPLOMA OF THE INSTITUTE OF OPTOMETRISTS (INC.) (D.I.O.N.Z.)

1923	G. S. Carmichael
1924	A. G. McNaughton, S. L. Suckling, H. A. White
1925	M. H. Conway, S. J. Hedge, F. E. Holland, W. W. McKinney, N. Wright
1926	H. G. Albertson, N. H. Cox, A. H. S. Fairmaid, R. J. S. Gray A. M. McClurg, E. C. Marshall
1927	C. M. McIlwraith, W. Ritchie, W. T. Wilson
1928	R. A. Bridgman, H. S. McKenzie, A. M. Rudge

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STATE DIPLOMA IN OPTOMETRY (S.D.O.N.Z.)

1929	R. C. Bailey, E. Bruce, J. Little, E. P. O'Shea, N. R. Savidge (Institute Conducted)
1930	R. T. Shanks
1931	J. E. Ewart, E. Ferguson, R. A. Watson
1932	P. N. Dick, R. A. Dickson, C. W. Dunlop
1933	E. R. Boyd, L. F. Inglis, J. Lindsay, L. N. Medlin
1934	H. Atkinson, F. O. Davis, W. Gosling, L. A. Notley
1935	R. F. Black, J. W. S. Gilberd, R. W. Martin, J. A. Robb, E. D. Savidge
1936	F. N. Chapman, N. C. Holland, E. W. Purchase, J. A. Thompson
1937	D. G. Aurisch, R. J. Barnes, S. F. Duncan, J. W. S. Gilberd, C. R. Martyn, J. C. Young
1938	J. E. Bray, R. R. Cocks, L. E. Newall, E. D. Shattky, N. Wilson
1939	W. J. Campbell, C. Coker, E. A. Gay, C. G. McKinney, J. Riddle
1940	I. W. Davies, R. S. Dick, H. V. Hubbard, J. B. Smith
1941	L. J. Carian, A. B. King, L. D. Irwin
1942	Nil
1943	P. Lowes
1944	B. M. Bennett, B. B. Martin
1945	R. A. Baker, G. R. Chance, V. H. Nicholls, D. G. Stevenson, G. E. Swain
1946	C. Armitage, N. T. Armstrong, E. Brooke-Taylor, E. G. Carter, E. de Lacey, R. L. Fastier, K. Fyfe, J. E. Horide, J. M. Marlow, K. W. Mills, J. F. Montgomery, D. Mortimer, G. E. Neill, R. N. Pennington, I. J. Robb, S. W. Stephens, H. S. Taylor

1947	H. G. Fletcher, B. Goldsbury, J. E. Jessop, H. G. Levien, J. M. D. Rawnsley, H. M. Shattky
1948	J. H. Atkinson, I. R. Bagley, B. Bigg-Wither, P. H. Campbell, P. C. Campion, D. H. Capper, A. G. Clark, C. Egarr, R. G. Halifax, S. E. Nicol, B. D. Schmidt, J. G. Watson M. C. Wear
1949	W. M. P. Barry, A. J. Crawshaw, L. H. Hopley, P. F. Waterhouse, G. D. Waters
1950	K. W. Gentry, P. K. Heginbotham, F. T. Hogsden, R. F. Johnson, D. I. Stewart, J. R. Wilson
1951	E. W. Calvert, B. D. Faulkner, A. M. Grant, H. Q. Gregory, D. A. Penny, J. B. Sturtevant, D. M. Thatcher, R. H. Young
1952	G. A. Brice, E. B. Curtis, P. R. de Lacey, W. J. Jamieson, P. Mayne, J. I. Munro, H. C. Russell, S. P. Salek, D. A. Thomson, W. R. Vinten
1953	E. G. Bloomfield, T. C. Grant, D. R. Truscott, R. E. Watts
1954	N. M. Beaumont, T. J. Duncan, M. Goldsbury, G. R. Jackson, D. McClelland, A. G. Rhodes, D. W. Scott, D. B. Semmens
1955	M. C. Brown, W. S. Gates, R. T. Hamilton, M. W. Priest, E. W. Roberts, A. I. Robinson
1956	I. C. Macalister, A. W. Matthews, D. C. Moss, G. M. Reynolds, N. G. Ritchie, B. J. Russell
1957	D. M. Irwin, A. C. Styles
1958	J. D. Adam
1959	R. F. Kinnear, J. F. Meek, K. R. Shanks, M. G. Webber
1960	L. B. Grocott, R. M. Phillips
1961	P. L. Dick, N. D. Donaldson, G. J. Williamson, M. D. Wright
1962	M. T. Purvis
1963	P. J. Turner, B. F. Whelan
1964	M. L. Coker, P. N. McDonald, P. J. Stevenson
1965	J. W. Boyce, P. C. Dunlop, T. P. Grosvenor, P. J. Rainford, G. R. Kearney
1966	M. Feilding (April)

DIPLOMA IN OPTOMETRY AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY (Dip. Opt.)

1967	J. E. Andersen, M. J. Frith, I. K. Laird, D. O. Neill, P. R. Rose
1968	J. deW. Anstice, R. B. Apperley, J. W. Boyce, K. N. Johnson, W. C. McClellan, J. Presland
1969	G. B. Elder, T. M. B. Harrington
1970	A. J. Nelson, M. J. Old, N. C. Retter, J. H. Veale, M. W. Wright
1971	P. R. Ansley, C. E. Daunt, J. C. Dean, B. J. Denny, B. G. Henderson, A. F. B. Paterson, B. J. Stewart, C. W. Suckling

1972	D. J. Bush, H. V. Douglas, P. K. Edington, S. B. Hatrick, R. J. Johnson, D. R. Kennedy, B. B. Kirk, B. J. Stewart, J. L. Watt, L. I. White
1973	G. J. Cole, V. M. Elias, R. J. Gordon, K. R. Hardey, Ho Kum Moon, G. P. A. Meek, L. J. Moore, D. J. Oliver, R. J. Suckling, N. W. Weir
1974	C. R. Beckwith, L. M. Calver, J. K. Hawkins, T. E. Langford, C. A. Porter, H. A. Swarbrick, J. G. Tarbutt
1975	J. B. C. Bain, M. J. Brown, A. N. Buckingham, M. C. Coleman, K. F. Hackett, L. F. Jackson, S. R. Macredie, M. C. McKenna, L. M. O'Connell, B. A. Raudkivi, B. I. Watson, J. P. Worsley
1976	P. Bentley, L. S. Bishop, M. A. Browning, M. S. Cardno, H. M. Chalmers, J. V. Cibilich, G. B. Crowley, G. K. Donnell, M. J. Eagle, L. J. Edgar, J. H. Foate, V. Gunn, J. C. McLennan, J. M. Raby, S. J. Schwarz, N. R. Templeton
1977	H. A. Caithness, J. M. Crawford, C. R. Earnshaw, B. R. Gifford, S. N. Henderson, Ho Sam Seong, N. A. King, G. B. Little, H. S. Maurice, N. R. Robertson, M. M. Rogers, S. J. Sandler, A. J. Thompson
1978	K. J. Adams, D. B. Appleyard, M. M. Boase, M. Curtis, A. J. Esposito, G. M. Filer, P. R. Grimmer, D. C. Haydon, S. E. Hill, M. L. Hopley, D. D. Lake, N. J. Murphy, B. H. Naylor, W. T. Perriam

APPENDIX II
LIST OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH

June 1923 - Jan. 1926	Sir Maui Pomare
Jan. 1926 - Dec. 1928	James A. Young
Dec. 1928 - May 1930	John G. Cobbe
May 1930 - Sept. 1931	A. J. Stallworthy
Sept. 1931 - Dec. 1935	James A. Young
Dec. 1935 - Apr. 1940	Peter Fraser
Apr. 1940 - Jan. 1941	H. B. Armstrong
Jan. 1941 - May 1947	A. H. Nordmeyer
May 1947 - Dec. 1949	Mabel Howard
Dec. 1949 - Sept. 1951	J. T. Watts
Sept. 1951 - Nov. 1954	J. R. Marshall
Nov. 1954 - Dec. 1957	J. R. Hanan
Dec. 1957 - Dec. 1960	H. G. R. Mason
Dec. 1960 - Jan. 1962	N. L. Shelton
Jan. 1962 - Feb. 1972	D. N. McKay
Feb. 1972 - Dec. 1972	L. N. Adams-Schneider
Dec. 1972 - Sept. 1974	R. J. Tizard
Sept. 1974 - Dec. 1975	T. M. McGuigan
Dec. 1975 - Dec. 1978	T. F. Gill
Dec. 1978 -	G. F. Gair

A TRIBUTE TO THE AUTHOR

Frank Owen Davis was born in 1912 in Southland, educated in Mataura, Gore and Oamaru, and trained as a pharmacist, gaining admission to the Pharmaceutical Society in 1931. He moved to Wellington and qualified as an optometrist in 1934, working with Dominion Optical Supplies and with Mr George Cox. He continued his studies in London, gaining the Honours diploma of the British Optical Association, returned to New Zealand and practised in Hawera, and, following a period of war service maintaining optical instruments, commanded the 14 Optician Unit in the Middle East and Italy. After his return to New Zealand at the end of the war, he practised in Invercargill till his retirement in 1977. He served as examiner in optometry to the Opticians Board and the University of Auckland and was closely involved in the activities of the Association over many years.

When Council began to plan the activities of its 1980 Jubilee Year, it was to Frank Davis that it looked to write the history of the Association and its predecessors to celebrate that occasion. Frank's interest in history was well known—but the enthusiasm with which he accepted the very considerable task, and the thoroughness and dedication with which he pursued it, were an inspiration to the Association's officers who had invited him to assist. That he did not live to see its completion is a source of great sadness to the Association as to his family—but that it has been able to be completed is a tribute to the thoroughness and promptness with which he carried out his task, for when he died early December 1979, about ten months before the book was due to be published, he had vitually completed his researches, planned the work in detail and written the text in more or less final form. It has remained for Cath his wife, and Paul his son, assisted by two or three Association members, to check, correct and proof-read the final text. Although minor changes have been made the work is unmistakebly Frank's. It has the stamp of the man—his thoroughness, his scholarliness, his gently probing mind, his own very personal style of writing, his great innate modesty—he has been at great pains to keep his own not insignificant contribution to the Association's history out of the account, and that his name appears at all in the text is due to the editorial interpolation.

The thanks to the Association members, the deep gratitude of the people whose activities have formed part of the Association's heritage and whose contribution has been so ably recorded, are due to Frank for his labours, and to Cath and Paul who have helped bring the work to publication. This book will be a permanent and fitting memorial to Frank Davis—a modest and gracious volume by a modest and gracious man.

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